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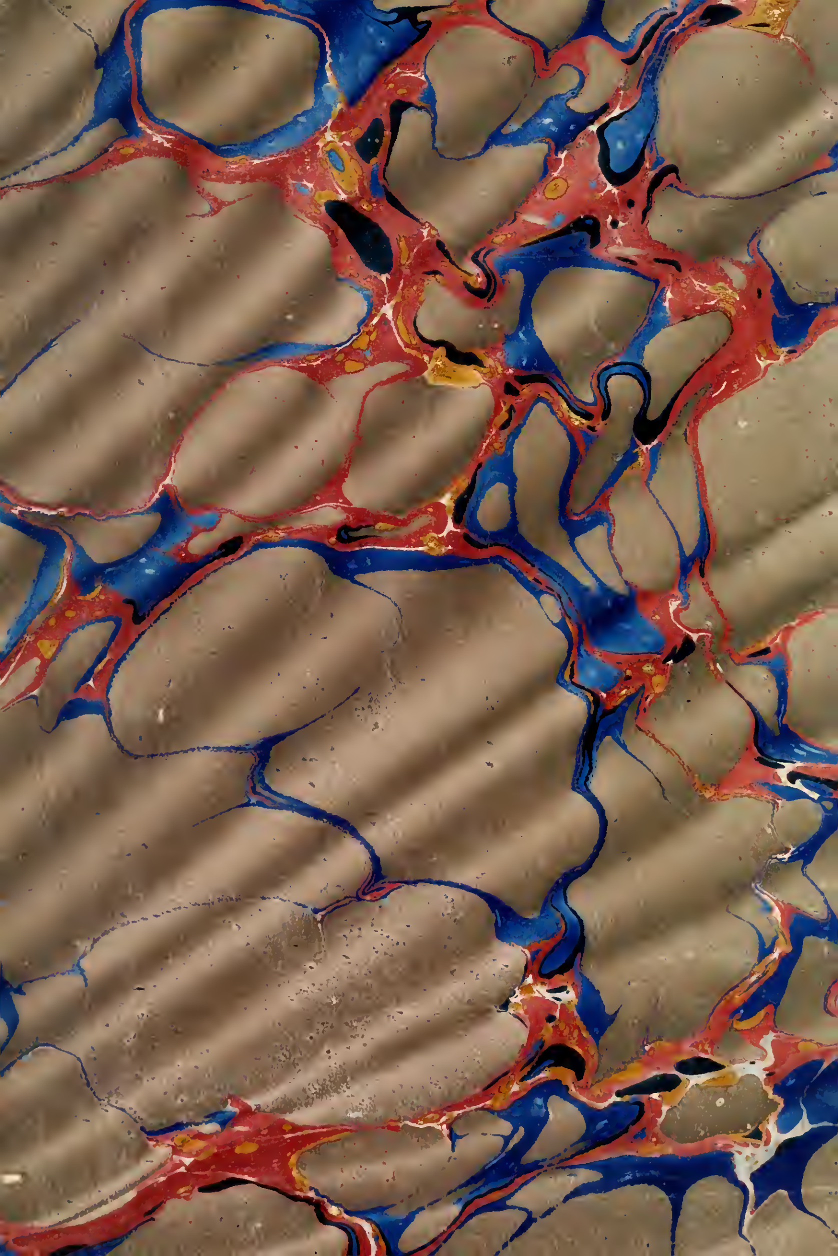

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HISTORY AND SURVEY

OF

London & its Environs.

CHAP. XXIX.

The Exchange built.—Sir Thomas Gresham's Munificence.—Census of Foreigners.—First Lottery.—City Marshal appointed.—Plague.—Trial by Battle.—The River Lea made Navigable.—The Citizens trained to Arms.—Combination of the Poulterers.—A Council appointed to assist the Lord Mayor.—High Price of Provisions.—Stage Plays regulated.—Alehouses suppressed.—Specimens of Ingenuity.—Lamb's Conduit founded.—Earthquake.—Foreigners again numbered.—New Buildings prohibited.—Cheapside Cross defaced.—The Turkey Company incorporated.—Sumptuary Law relative to Apprentices.—London-bridge Water Works begun.—Origin of the Nomination of Sheriffs by the Lord Mayor.—Muster of Archers.—Armaments by the City.—School for Pick-pockets.—Ten Thousand Men raised in London.—The Spanish Plan of Invasion defeated by the London Merchants.—Thanksgiving.—Loan.—Price of Coals.—Dreadful Pestilence.—Sea and Land Armaments, at the Expense of the City.—Scarcity.—The City put under Martial Law.—Appointment of a Recorder.—One Thousand Citizens pressed.—Preparations against another Invasion.—Origin of the East India Company.—Five Fifteenths assessed on the Citizens.—Increase of Hawkers.—New Buildings again prohibited.—Naval Armament.

IN the year 1566, Sir Thomas Gresham, an opulent merchant of London, actuated by a laudable desire to facilitate commercial transactions, proposed to the corporation of London to erect, at his own expense, a commodious building for merchants to meet and transact business, provided they would furnish him with a convenient spot for the same. The city, readily acquiescing in this proposal, purchased fourscore houses, which formed two alleys, leading out of Cornhill into Threadneedle-street, called New St. Christopher's and Swan Alleys, for three thousand five hundred and thirty-two pounds. The materials of these houses were sold for four hundred and seventy-eight pounds; and Sir Thomas Gresham, with several of the aldermen, laid the first bricks of the new building, on the 7th of June, 1566; each alderman laying one, and giving a piece of gold to the workmen, who persevered with such alacrity, that the building was roofed in by the month of November following, and was soon after completed, under the name of *The Burse.*

Sir Thomas, by his will, dated the 26th of November, 1579, devised this stately fabric to the mayor and citizens of London, and the company of mercers, to be equally enjoyed and possessed by them, with all its appurtenances, and the profits arising thereby, on condition that the citizens, out of their moiety, should pay a salary of fifty pounds per annum each, to four lecturers, to read lectures in divinity, astronomy, music, and geometry, in his mansion-house, viz. Gresham College; and to pay six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence per ann. each, to eight alms-people, situate behind the said college, in Broad-street; and ten pounds yearly to each of the prisons of Newgate, Ludgate, King's-bench, Marshalsea, and Wood-street Compter. And that the mercers, out of their moiety, should pay fifty pounds per ann. each, to three lecturers, to read lectures in law, physic, and rhetoric, in his mansion-house; and one hundred pounds per ann. for four quarterly dinners at their own hall, for the entertainment of the whole company; and ten pounds yearly, each, to Christ's, St. Bartholomew's, Bethlehem, and St. Thomas's Hospitals, to the Spital, and to the Poultry Compter.

There being a great increase of foreigners in the metropolis, and a jealousy subsisting between England and Spain, her majesty, in the year 1567, commanded the lord mayor to take the name, quality, and profession, of all strangers residing within the city of London; on which examination there appeared to be as follows: Scots, forty; French, four hundred and twenty-eight; Spaniards and Portuguese, forty-five; Italians, one hundred and forty; Dutch, two thousand and thirty; Burgundians, forty-four; Danes, two; Liegois, one.

The following year, Sir Thomas Rowe, knight, gave a burial ground, at the north-east corner of Moorfields, since called Old Bethlehem Burial-ground, and containing about an acre of land, for the burial of poor citizens gratis; which he inclosed with a brick-wall. He also appointed a sermon to be preached, every Whitsunday morning, before the lord mayor and aldermen; and gave several other very charitable legacies.

A conduit, for the reception of Thames water, was erected in this year, at Walbrook corner, at the expense of the citizens of London.

The drawing of the first lottery mentioned in the English history, was begun on the 11th of January, 1569, at the west door of St. Paul's, and continued day and night, without intermission, till the 6th of May. The number of lots was forty thousand; the prizes were of plate, and the profits were appropriated to the repair of the havens of the kingdom.

An order of common-council was made in this year, for the beadles belonging to the hospitals to take up all sturdy beggars and vagrants, and to carry them to Bridewell; all sick, lame, blind, and aged, to be carried to St. Bartholomew's, or St. Thomas's; and all children beggars, under the age of sixteen, to Christ's Hospital; appointing to the beadles of each hospital their proper circuit or district, with severe penalties upon their neglect of duty. But this act had not its effect. The streets, next year, swarmed again with beggars, vagrants, and maimed soldiers. It was then resolved to appoint a city-marshal, who, in a more effectual manner, might deliver the citizens from the disgrace and mischief of being over-run with sturdy beggars, &c. And the committee, to whom this appointment was given in charge, chose William Sympson and John Read, two able persons, (for the consideration of six shillings and eight pence a day, for them and their horses, and six persons a-piece, of their own choosing, to attend on each day, at twelve pence each) whose office was to take some course with those vagrants and wandering people, so as to clear the streets of them, and to deliver them to their several places and punishments, if they deserved it. And for the more ready executing this office, it was ordered, that one month's pay, of twenty-eight days to the month, should be paid to them beforehand; and accordingly the aldermen, by way of loan, disbursed the same, amounting to thirty-five pounds nine shillings and four pence. And it was also thought convenient, that twelve fair partisans, suitably and conveniently armed, should, at present, be provided by the chamberlain for this service, at the charge of the city; and coats, or mandilions, for the attendants upon the marshals. The office of city marshal originated in this regulation.

The execution of this office was attended with such an expense to the citizens, that it was found adviseable to balance it by the abolition of the old pompous watch, in which a vast sum of money was expended to no useful purpose; and in lieu of this, the common-council appointed a nightly watch, nearly similar to what exists at present.

During the summer of this year, the plague again broke out in London, which occasioned the adjournment of the Michaelmas term, first to November, and afterwards to the ensuing Hilary term; and the lord mayor and aldermen issued their special orders for preventing idle persons from going about the streets, who might disperse the infection among the citizens.

About this time, the city laid out eight hundred and fourteen pounds fifteen shillings and eight pence in cleansing the city ditch, from Aldgate to the postern on Tower-hill, and making a new sewer and wharf of timber, from the head of the postern into the town ditch. Before this time, the ditch had always lain open, without wall or pale; and it was well stocked with divers kinds of good fish.

On the 23d of January, in the year 1570, her majesty, attended by the nobility, went into the city, and dined with Sir Thomas Gresham, knight, at his house in Bishopsgate-street. After dinner, her majesty returned through Cornhill, went into the Burse, newly built by Sir Thomas, and, after viewing it in all parts, commanded proclamation to be made by a herald, with sound of trumpet, that thenceforth it should go by the appellation of the Royal Exchange.

A dispute arose at this time, between the tenants of the Bishop of Ely and the lord mayor of London, respecting the exercise of the mayor's authority among them: the dispute was referred to the lord keeper, the two chief justices, and the chancellor of the exchequer, who determined it in favour of the city; and that, for the future, the mayor might as justly exercise his authority in the bishop's rents, in Holborn, as in any other part of the city.

It will probably astonish those, who look for the perfection of civilization under Elizabeth, to hear that the trial by combat might be legally demanded during her reign; and that the judges of the common-pleas actually sat in Tothill-fields, Westminster, on the 18th of June, 1571, to decide by such pleadings; but, judging from the relation of the circumstance in Howes's Chronicle, p. 668, it is probable that some compromise had taken place, to bring the question before the judges in a more *civil* way; since a decision was given against one of the parties, on a pretended non-appearance, although his champion was in court.

An act of parliament was passed in this year, directing a new cut or trench to be made at the charge of the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, whereby the river Lea was to be made to convey all victuals, corn, and other necessaries, from the town of Ware to the city of London, and from London to Ware. By this means the conveyance of grain and other provisions out of Hertfordshire was greatly facilitated, and a considerable expense of land carriage saved.

In the same year the streets in the eastern suburbs of London, as far as Whitechapel-bars, were, by an act of parliament, ordered to be paved.

The conspiracy of which the Duke of Norfolk had been recently convicted appearing to Elizabeth to render more than ordinary precautions necessary for the security of her throne, she issued an order, in 1572, to the citizens of London to learn and practise the use of arms in case of any emergency in which she might want their assistance. In consequence of this precept, the lord mayor directed the masters and assistants of every company to select the young and active men out of their respective bodies for that purpose; and, on the 25th and 26th of March, the several companies met, when three thousand young citizens were embodied under able officers. Of these, some were made musqueteers, and the rest pikemen; and so expeditiously were they trained, that, on the 1st of May, they were reviewed by the queen at Greenwich, and executed their manœuvres with great dexterity.

The poulterers having entered into a combination to raise the price of poultry, a proclamation was published by the lord mayor, on the 4th of April, for restraining them from taking more than the prices fixed in the following table.

In the shops.

	S.	D.
The best swan at	6	8
The best cygnet at	6	0
The best crane at	6	0
The best stork at	4	0
The best heron at	2	6
The best bittern at	2	0
The best shoveler or pelican at	2	0
The best wild mallard at	0	6
The best widgeon at	0	3
The best teal at	0	3
The best capon at	1	8

The

	S.	D.
The second sort of capons, each at	1	4
The best hen at	0	9
The best green goose, till May-day, each at	0	9
The best green geese, after May-day, each at	0	6
The best rabbits at	0	4
The best rabbit-runner, after May, each at	0	2
The best pigeons, a dozen at	1	2
The best pullets, each at	0	6
The best chickens, each at	0	4
The smaller sort of chickens, each at	0	2½
The best woodcocks, each at	0	6
The best green plover at	0	4
The best grey plover at	0	3
The best snipe at	0	2
The best blackbirds, a dozen at	1	0
The best larks, a dozen at	0	8
The best knot at	0	4
The best gulls, each at	1	8
The best goose at	1	2
The best butter, till Allhallows, the pound at	0	3
The best eggs, till Michaelmas, five for	0	1
The best eggs till Ash-Wednesday, four for	0	1
In the markets.		
The best wild mallard at	0	5
The best capon at	1	0
The second sort of capons, each at	0	10
The best hen at	0	7
The best pigeons, a dozen at	1	0
The best chickens, each at	0	3
The smaller sort of chickens, each at	0	1½
The best woodcock at	0	5
The green plover at	0	3
The best blackbirds, a dozen at	0	10
The best larks, a dozen at	0	6
The best goose at	1	0

The queen, intending to make a progress through the counties in this year, sent a letter to the lord mayor, enjoining him to have a special regard to the good government and peace of the city during her absence; for the better accomplishment of which she appointed certain of her privy-counsellors to be his advisers and assistants, with whom he was ordered to consult once a week, or oftener.

In the year 1573, the price of wheat was raised to two pounds six shillings the quarter; beef was sold for one shilling and ten pence the stone, and all other flesh and white meats at an excessive price. This increase in price was not occasioned by any deficiency of produce, but by the secret exportation of provisions to the Netherlands, then laid waste by civil wars; wherefore, the lord mayor sent a remonstrance to the lord treasurer, "that unless the ministry would see redress thereof in time, the scarcity must shortly be felt more powerfully, even by those in the highest stations of life." At the same time an act of common-council was passed to prevent the excessive consumption of provisions at the feasts of the companies and at the magistrates' tables.

The plague again broke out at London in 1574; on which account the queen, to prevent the concourse of people from spreading the contagion, desired the lord mayor not to give any entertainment at Guildhall, on the anniversary of his entering on his office.

The exhibition of stage plays and interludes, which had been occasionally practised by ingenious tradesmen and gentlemens' servants, was now become a regular profession; and the different places for these exhibitions, which were large rooms in inns, were become common nurseries of vice and lewdness. To suppress which, the common-council passed an act, wherein it was ordained as follows: "That no play should be openly played within the liberty of the city, wherein should be uttered any words, examples, or doings of any unchastity, sedition, or such-like unfit and uncomely matter, upon pain of imprisonment for fourteen days, and five pounds for every such offence. That no inn-keeper, &c. shall show or play, or cause to be shown or played, within his house, or yard, any play which shall not be first perused, and allowed by order of the lord mayor, and court of aldermen. And that no person shall be allowed to play, but shall be thereunto admitted by the lord mayor and aldermen. And that every person to be licensed shall pay to the use of the poor in the hospitals of the city, or to the poor visited with sickness, certain sums to be agreed upon, upon pain of forfeiting his said license. And that all sums and forfeitures incurred by any offence against this act, shall be employed to the relief of the poor of the hospitals, or of the poor infected or diseased in the city; to be sued for and recovered by the chamberlain in the court of the outer chamber of Guildhall, London, called the Mayor's Court."

The public performers petitioned the queen and council for license to act as usual; but after a full hearing they could not obtain permission except under the restrictions of the above act of common-council, and of another act, made in the mayoralty of Hawes, by which they were enjoined not to play on Sundays, nor on holidays, till after evening prayers, and not to act after dark, but to conclude at such time, that the audience might return to their dwellings before sun set.

In the year 1575, minutes of several regulations for the reforming of public grievances were made by the Lord Chancellor Bacon, in the court of Star-chamber, one of which, for the suppression of the superfluous alehouses, being communicated to the lord mayor, he, with the assistance of the recorders of Southwark and Lambeth, put down above two hundred, in their several jurisdictions. This example was immediately followed by the magistrates of Westminster, the Duchy of Lancaster, the Tower-hamlets, and those parts of the county contiguous to the metropolis.

At this time the lord mayor, recorder, and other magistrates of the city, exerted themselves so effectually in executing the laws against vice and immorality, that, at the assizes then held for the city of London, there was not one criminal to be tried; the reason whereof is set forth in the following extract of a letter from William Fletewood, recorder of London, to the lord treasurer, then with the court at Buxton, viz. " The only cause that this reformation taketh so good effect here about London, is, that when, by order, we have either justly executed the law, or performed the council's commandment, we were wont to have either a great man's letter, a lady's ring, or some other token from such other inferior persons, as will devise one untruth or other to accuse us of, if we perform not their unlawful requests. The court is far off; here we are not troubled with letters, neither for the reprieve of this prisoner, nor for sparing that fray-maker. These secretaries, chamber-keepers, and solicitors in the court, procure many letters from their lords and ladies upon untrue suggestions; the which letters do great hurt."

The following extraordinary performances are related in Howes's Chronicle, p. 680, under the date of 1576, viz.

" A strange piece of work, and almost incredible, was brought to pass by an Englishman, born within the city of London, and a clerk of the chancery, named Peter Bales, who, by his industry and practise of his pen, contrived and writ, within the compass of a penny, in Latin, the Lords prayer, the creed, the ten commandments, a prayer to God, a prayer for the queen, his posy, his name, the day of the month, the year of our Lord, and the reign of the queen: and at Hampton court he presented the same to the queen's majesty in the head of a ring of gold, covered with a crystal, and presented therewith an excellent spectacle, by him devised, for the easier reading thereof, wherewith her majesty read all that was written therein, and did wear the same upon her finger."

"Also about the same time Mark Scaliot, blacksmith, born in London, for trial of workmanship, made one hanging lock of iron, steel, and brass, a pipe key, filed three square, with a pot upon the shaft, and the bow with two SS, all clean wrought, which weighed but one grain of gold, or wheat corn: he made also a chain of gold of forty-three links, to the which chain the lock and key being fastened and put about a flea's neck, she drew the same, all which lock, key, chain, and flea, weighed but one grain and a half."

London had a very narrow escape from the plague in the year 1577. That dreadful scourge made its appearance in the Temple, but by the extreme vigilance of Fletewood, the recorder, its horrors were prevented.

In this year, Mr. William Lamb, citizen and clothworker, formerly one of the gentlemen of the chapel to King Henry VIII. drew several springs of water into one head, at the upper end of Red-lion-street, Holborn, since denominated from him, Lamb's conduit; and at the expense of one thousand five hundred pounds, conveyed the water through leaden pipes to Snow-hill, where it was received into an old conduit which he had repaired for that purpose. This conduit remained for many years after Cheapside, Aldermanbury, and other conduits were destroyed. It was taken down in 1746, to make room for the erection of the Foundling Hospital.

In the year 1579, Mr. William Kympton, Alderman of London, was committed to the Fleet-prison, by the lord chancellor, for concealing a letter sent him by the Vicar of Hadley, in Middlesex, informing him of an insurrection at Northall, where the people had tumultuously pulled down some pales. This offence being deemed a misprision of treason, he was, by the court of Star-chamber, fined five hundred marks, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Fleet during her majesty's pleasure.

On the 6th of April, in the following year, a dreadful earthquake happened in London, which, though its duration did not exceed a minute, shattered many houses and churches, and several people were killed by the stones that fell from the buildings.

About this time, the queen issued an order, for again ascertaining the number of foreigners in London; when, on the report being made, it appeared that they amounted to six thousand four hundred and sixty-two, nearly three times as many as in 1567, viz. Dutch, two thousand three hundred and two; French, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight; Italians, one hundred and sixteen; English, born of foreign parents, one thousand five hundred and forty-two; other nations, four hundred and forty-seven; persons not certified, two hundred and seventeen.

This considerable increase of foreigners in the metropolis was productive of a remonstrance from the lord mayor and aldermen, against the vast increase of new buildings, and number of inhabitants within the city and suburbs of London, chiefly occasioned by the great resort of people from abroad, and all parts of the kingdom, to settle there: which was imagined would prove of dangerous consequence, both to London and to the whole nation, if not timely remedied. Wherefore, her majesty issued a proclamation, by which it was forbidden to erect any new buildings within three miles from the city gates, where no former house could be remembered to have been by any one living: and also to suffer any more families than one only, to be placed or to inhabit in any one house: with power to the lord mayor to commit offenders against this proclamation, or to hold them to bail. And when Sir John Branch, the next lord mayor, went to take the oath in the Exchequer, the lord treasurer charged him strictly to enforce the said proclamation, because, said he, there will, from an increase of people, arise an excessive price of victuals and fuel; and danger of plague and infection.

On the 21st of June, 1581, the populace taking offence at the images with which the cross in Cheapside was decorated, attempted to pull the whole down, but failing in their design, they broke and defaced the images; and, notwithstanding the offer of a reward of forty crowns, the offenders were never discovered.

For the preservation of the timber for the use of shipping, as well as for fuel to the inhabitants of London, the parliament passed an act in this year, "that no new iron-work should be erected within twenty-two miles of London, or within fourteen miles of the river Thames; nor should any wood, within the limits described, be converted into coal or fuel, for the making of iron.

The Turkey company was incorporated in this year, and the first governor was Sir Edward Osborn, an alderman of London. The ambassador who was sent by Elizabeth to negotiate their friendly reception in Turkey, sailed on board the ship Susan, of London, mounting thirty-four guns; a vessel of considerable magnitude at that period.

In the year 1582, the luxury of the times having greatly prevailed among people of all degrees, in their apparel, particularly apprentices, the lord mayor and common-council enacted, "That no apprentice whatsoever should presume, 1. To wear any apparel but what he receives from his master. 2. To wear no hat, nor any thing but a woollen cap, without any silk in or about the same. 3. To wear neither ruffles, cuffs, loose collars, nor any thing than a ruff at the collar, and that only of a yard and half long. 4. To wear no doublets but what are made of canvass, fustian, sackcloth, English leather, or woollen, without any gold, silver, or silk trimming. 5. To wear no other coloured cloth, or kersey, in hose or stockings, than white, blue, or russet. 6. To wear no other breeches but what shall be of the same stuffs as the doublets, and neither stitched, laced, or bordered. 7. To wear no other than a plain upper coat, of cloth or leather, without pinking, stitching, edging, or silk about it. 8. To wear no other surtout than a cloth gown or cloak, lined or faced with cloth, cotton, or baize, with a fixed round collar, without stitching, guarding, lace, or silk. 9. To wear no pumps, slippers, or shoes, but of English leather, without being pinked, edged, or stitched: nor girdles, nor garters, other than of crewel, woollen, thread, or leather, without being garnished. 10. To wear no sword, dagger, or other weapon, but a knife: nor a ring, jewel of gold nor silver, nor silk in any part of his apparel, on pain of being punished at the discretion of the master for the first offence;

to be publicly whipped at the hall of his company for a second offence; and to serve six months longer than specified in his indentures for a third offence." And it was further enacted, "That no apprentice should frequent or go to any dancing, fencing, or musical schools; nor keep any chest, press, or other place, for keeping of apparel, or goods, but in his master's house, under the penalties aforesaid."

An ingenious German, named Maurice, submitted a scheme to the lord mayor and aldermen, in this year, for supplying the city with Thames water, by means of a machine, to be worked by the stream of the tide, under London-bridge. The scheme being approved, the city granted Maurice a lease of one arch, and a place for fixing his engine, at the north end of the bridge, for the term of five hundred years, at a rent of ten shillings per annum. Two years after, he obtained a lease of a second arch, and from the utility of, and improvements in, the invention, Maurice and his posterity acquired considerable wealth. It continued in their hands till 1701, at which time the wheels occupied four arches, when it was sold to Richard Soams, a goldsmith, for thirty-six thousand pounds. Immediately after the purchase, Soams obtained a confirmation of Maurice's lease, at the yearly rent of twenty shillings, and a fine of three hundred pounds; after which, he divided the undertaking into three hundred shares, at five hundred pounds each.

The first instance of the custom of the nomination of sheriffs, by the lord mayor drinking to them, occurred in the year 1583.

On the 17th of September, in this year, there was a splendid shooting match, under the direction of the captain of the London archers, who, for many years, assumed the name of the Duke of Shoreditch;* and who, on the occasion, summoned his nominal nobility to attend him, with their several companies, under the following titles; the Marquisses of Barlow, Clerkenwell, Islington, Hoxton, and Shacklewell, the Earl of Pancras, &c. These, to the number of three thousand, assembled at the place appointed, sumptuously apparelled, and nine hundred and forty-two of them had gold chains about their necks. They marched from Merchant Taylor's-hall, the residence of their captain, through Moorfields and Finsbury, to Smithfield; where, after having performed their evolutions, they shot at the target for glory.

In the year 1585, her majesty being apprehensive of an invasion from Spain, it was thought necessary to keep the nation prepared against any unforeseen attack. In consequence of which, the navy was put on a respectable footing; her subjects in general were disciplined to the use of arms; and the citizens, at their own expense, sent five thousand men, completely armed, to encamp on Blackheath; at which place they were several times reviewed by the queen. The citizens also, soon after, sent a considerable body of men, completely armed, to the assistance of the Dutch, against the Spaniards.

In the month of July, in this year, the magistrates of London took great pains to discover the houses that harboured the cut-purses and robbers, who infested the city. Among the rest, a regular school for the instruction of pick-pockets, was found at Smart's key, near Billingsgate. The method of teaching this art was as follows: In the centre of the room was a pocket with counters in it, and a purse with silver; both of which were suspended, and small bells fixed round them. The test of proficiency was, to pick the pocket, or take the silver out of the purse, without jingling the bells. The house where this school was held was suppressed, and the man who kept it fined and imprisoned.

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* King Henry VIII. having appointed a shooting match at Windsor, it happened, towards night, when the diversion was almost over, one Barlow, a citizen of London, and inhabitant of Shoreditch, out-shot all the rest; with which his majesty was so well pleased, that he told Barlow, that henceforward he should be called The Duke of Shoreditch; which title descended for several generations, with the captainship of the London archers.

Ludgate, with a prison over for debtors who were freemen of the city, was rebuilt in the year 1586; and, if what Hollingshed relates, p.1561, is to be relied on, it cost only somewhat above one thousand five hundred pounds.

In the following year, the nation became sensibly alarmed at the vigorous preparations made by the Spaniards for the reduction of England. The queen was very alert in pursuing the most defensive measures. She ordered all the commercial towns in England to furnish ships to reinforce the navy; and, on the 8th of March, she sent the following letter to the lord mayor of London:

" Trusty, and well-beloved, We greet you well. Whereas upon information given unto Us, of great preparations made in foreign parts, with an intent to attempt somewhat against this Our realm, We gave present order that Our said realm should be put in order of defence; which We have caused to be performed in all parts accordingly, saving in the city of London. We, therefore, knowing your readiness, by former experience, to perform any service that well-affected subjects ought to yield to their prince and sovereign, do let you understand, that, within Our said city, Our pleasure is, that there be forthwith put in readiness to serve, for the defence of Our person, upon such occasions as may fall out, the number of ten thousand able men, furnished with armour and weapons convenient; of which number Our meaning is, that six thousand be enrolled under captains and ensigns, and to be trained at times convenient, according to such further direction as you shall receive from Our privy-council, under six of their hands, which Our pleasure is, you do follow, from time to time, in the ordering and training of the said number of men. And these Our letters shall be your sufficient warrant for the doing of the same. Given under Our signet, &c."

This letter from the queen was followed by another from the privy-council, to the same purport; both of which being laid before the common-council, they unanimously agreed to grant the royal request, and that the aldermen and common-council should raise them in their several wards respectively. Soon after this, the privy-council sent another letter to the mayor, requesting him to have them ready to march at the shortest notice. This was not only complied with, but, on the 3d of April, the common-council granted a supply of sixteen of the largest ships in the river, and four frigates, which were immediately fitted out, and supplied with all proper necessaries. These ships were afterwards augmented to the number of thirty-eight; the expense attending which, together with the ten thousand troops, was defrayed by the city, during the time they continued in her majesty's service.

The number of troops raised in the several wards, were levied in the following proportions:

	men.
Farringdon within - -	807
Aldgate - - -	347
Coleman-street - - -	229
Bassishaw - - -	177
Billingsgate - - -	365
Broad-street ward - -	373
Bread-street ward - -	386

	men.
Aldersgate ward	232
Bridge ward	383
Dowgate ward	384
Cornhill ward	191
Castle-baynard ward	551
Lime-street ward	99
Cheap ward	358
Queenhithe ward	404
Farringdon without	1264
Cordwainers ward	301
Tower-street ward	444
Walbrook ward	290
Vintry ward	364
Portsoken ward	243
Candlewick ward	215
Cripplegate ward	925
Bishopsgate ward	326
Langbourn ward	349

The zeal and alacrity of the citizens, in this and the following year, contributed greatly to the security of the independence of the nation; but great as these were, the assistance the state derived from the influence of the London merchants, was infinitely more important. By their means, Philip was compelled to defer his threatened attempt until the next year; when the preparations for defence were, consequently, much more effectual: for Thomas Sutton, Esq. who afterwards founded the Charter-house, assisted by Sir Thomas Gresham, and some others, found means to get all the Spanish bills of exchange protested, which were drawn on the merchants of Genoa, and to supply Philip with money for carrying on his preparations. Bishop Burnet, in the first volume of the History of his Life and Times, p. 313, says, "A merchant of London, being very well acquainted with the revenue and expense of Spain, and of all that they could raise; and knowing also, that their funds were so swallowed up, that it was impossible for them to victual and fit out their fleet, but by their credit on the bank of Genoa; he undertook to write to all the places of trade, and to get such remittances made on that bank, that he might have so much of the money in his own hands, as there should be none current there, equal to the great occasion of victualling the Spanish fleet. He reckoned, that the keeping of such a treasure dead in his hands, until the season of victualling was over, would be a loss of forty thousand pounds: and he managed the matter with such secrecy and success, that the fleet could not set out that year."

The subsequent failure, and total defeat of this formidable expedition, are well known to every reader of English history; it will therefore be unnecessary to dwell upon it here.

A public thanksgiving being ordered to be made on the 24th of November, the queen came in great state to St. Paul's, to perform that solemn duty; on which occasion, eleven banners or ensigns, taken from the enemy, were hung up in the body of the church, as trophies of their defeat.

In the year 1589, the city lent the queen fifteen thousand pounds, at ten per cent. and supplied her with a thousand men, to assist in placing Henry of Navarre on the throne of France.

In the year 1590, the owners of the coal-pits at Newcastle entered into a combination, to enhance the price of coals in London, from four shillings to nine shillings the chaldron. And, in the following year, the lord high-admiral of England claimed a right to the coal-metage, in the port of London; but the mayor and citizens invalidating this claim, his pretensions were set aside, and, by the interest of the lord-treasurer, Burleigh, they obtained of the queen a confirmation of their right to this office.

In the year 1592, the plague broke out again in London, and raged with such violence, that, notwithstanding the most salutary measures were taken for stopping its progress, it took off no less than ten thousand six hundred and seventy-five citizens; and the term was, on this dismal occasion, adjourned to Hertford.

In the year 1593, the city of London and its suburbs, being greatly pestered with vagrants, beggars, and thieves, her majesty issued a proclamation for suppressing them; and commanded the lord mayor to see the same properly executed within three miles of the city.

The following year, in obedience to the queen's desire, the lord mayor and common-council fitted out six ships of war, with two frigates, and stored the same with ammunition and proper provisions for six months; two days after which, they added four hundred and fifty soldiers; and the expense of maintaining the whole was defrayed by a fifteenth raised from the citizens.

This year, an ineffectual attempt was made to supply the western parts of the city with Thames water, by a horse engine, with four pumps, erected at Broken-wharf, in Thames-street; but the undertaking proved too expensive to subsist.

The wetness of the season, this year, advanced the price of wheat to three pounds four shillings per quarter, and grain of all sorts was so scarce, that the companies were ordered to lay up stores of it for supply, till the next harvest.

In the year 1595, the licentiousness of the populace, who drew in the London apprentices to join them, produced such repeated and alarming riots, that it was thought necessary by the mayor to lay the case before the lord-treasurer, for her majesty's direction. In consequence of which, on the 4th of July, a proclamation was issued, wherein her majesty appointed a provost-martial, with power to apprehend all rioters, and such as might be refractory to the officers of justice, and, by order of martial law, to punish them accordingly. Sir Thomas Wilford, who was appointed provost-martial, patrolled the city, with a numerous attendance on horseback, armed with pistols, and apprehended many of the rioters, whom he took before the justices appointed for their examination. On the 22d of July, they were tried at Guildhall, and five of them being condemned, were, two days after, agreeable to their sentence, executed on Tower-hill. This example had the desired effect; for the rest were so intimidated that they immediately dispersed, and peace was again restored in the city.

This year, her majesty, having preferred the recorder of London, informed the citizens, that she intended to make choice of one herself; for which purpose, she desired the lord mayor to send her the names of such persons as were intended to be put in nomination for that office. The citizens, alarmed at this extraordinary proceeding, and suspecting it to be an attempt of the court to get the appointment of the recorder out of their hands, prudently nominated only one person for that office, Mr. James Altham, of Gray's-inn. With this nomination, Sir John Spencer, the mayor, sent a letter to the lord-treasurer, in recommendation of this gentleman, as residing in the city, and explaining the inconveniences arising from recorders who were absentees from their trust; and concluded with his earnest request, that her majesty would be pleased to approve this nomination. How the affair ended does not appear, only that another name stands on the list as elected at this time.

The scarcity of provisions still continued, insomuch that, according to Howes, a hen's egg was sold in London for one penny, or three eggs for twopence, at most; a pound of sweet butter for seven pence; and so the like of fish or flesh.

In the year 1596, while the mayor and aldermen were attending a sermon at St. Paul's-cross, they received a message from the queen, ordering them to raise one thousand able-bodied men, for immediate service; in compliance with which, they immediately left their devotion, and applied so diligently, that, before eight o'clock at night, they obtained the complement required, who were completely armed, and ready to march before next morning. They were destined for the relief of the French in Calais, against the Spaniards; but some unexpected intelligence arriving from that place, their appearance became unnecessary, and this little army was disbanded before it had existed twenty-four hours. The court, however, being again alarmed, on Easter-day, in the morning, sent another message to the lord mayor and aldermen, commanding them to raise the like number of men as before: in obedience to which, they, with their proper officers, repaired to the different churches in their respective jurisdictions, during the time of divine service, and, causing the doors to be shut, they selected the number of men required, who, being properly armed, with all possible expedition, began their march, the night after, for Dover, in order for their embarkation for France; but, advice being received of the reduction of Calais, they were ordered home, after a week's absence, and immediately disbanded.

The last account we find of the existence of the Steel-yard merchants in London, is in the year 1597;

when, in consequence of their attempts to get our merchant-adventurers expelled from Germany, the queen directed a commission to the mayor and sheriffs of London, to shut up the house inhabited by the merchants of the Hans-towns at the Steel-yard in London; since which time the place has never been used by any company of foreign merchants.

In the year 1599, a report having been universally circulated, that the Spaniards were meditating a second invasion of England, the queen, as usual, applied to the citizens of London for their assistance, when they immediately supplied her with six thousand soldiers, and completely fitted out sixteen ships of war. One moiety of the troops were to take the field, and the other, composed of eminent citizens, to attend the queen as her body-guard, at their own and the city's expense. During this time of expected danger, strong guards were kept in all quarters of the city, chains drawn across every night at the ends of all the streets and lanes, and a candle and lantern hung out at every door, on pain of death.

In the beginning of the year 1600, the cross in Cheapside was repaired by the queen's command; and a new cross of timber, covered with lead and gilt set upon the top.

In this year five hundred soldiers were raised by the citizens of London, for the use of her majesty, who, being properly supplied with all warlike necessaries, were, by her command, sent to Ireland; and about the same time they fitted out several gallies for sea-service, the expense of which was defrayed by three fifteenths levied throughout the city, by order of the common-council.

The exorbitant price at which spices were kept by our own Turkey merchants and by the Dutch East India Company, in consequence of the war with Spain, which prevented our traders from obtaining them from Lisbon as they had been accustomed to do, determined the queen to enter her own subjects upon a direct commerce to the East Indies; accordingly, on the last day of this year, she granted a charter to George, Earl of Cumberland, and two hundred and fifteen knights, Aldermen, and merchants, under the denomination of "The Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading to the East Indies." Who, that looks at the present extensive power, dominion, and wealth, of the East India Company, would suppose that its origin was to be attributed to pepper being sold at eight shillings the pound in London?

The trade and navigation on the English coasts being greatly interrupted by the depredations of Spanish privateers, the queen, in 1601, ordered a number of ships to be fitted out to cruize against them: and, on this occasion, no less than five fifteenths were assessed upon the citizens of London, towards defraying the expense of the armament; and a proclamation was issued for discharging all such debtors in the gaols of London as were willing to enter on board the said ships.

In the year 1602, the trade of the city of London having been greatly injured by the increase of hawkers and pedlars, the common-council enacted, "That no citizen or other inhabitant of London, for the future, should, under any pretence whatsoever, presume to let, before his, her, or their house, any stall, stand, or perpresture, upon the penalty of twenty shillings. And that all hawkers offending against the tenor of this act, not only to forfeit all their goods so offered to sale, but likewise pay a fine of twenty shillings for every such offence."

In the Fœdera* is another proclamation of Elizabeth for restraining the increase of buildings in the metropolis, by which she commands all persons to desist from any new buildings of any house or tenement within three miles of any of the gates of London; only one family to live in any house; empty houses erected within seven years not to be let; and unfinished buildings on new foundations to be pulled down: with many other articles of less importance.

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* Vol. XVI. p. 448.

In the year 1603, the citizens of London, by the queen's command, fitted out and maintained two ships and a tender, at the annual expense of six thousand pounds. This was the last demand made by Elizabeth on the citizens; and it is remarked by historians, that, during the long reign of that princess, and considering the readiness with which the citizens of London always answered her demands, she did not grant them any new charter of privileges, or even so much as confirm those which had been given by her predecessors.

On the 23d of March, the death of Elizabeth put an end to the direct line of the English royal family. She was succeeded by James VI. of Scotland, who was proclaimed at Whitehall, by Secretary Cecil, and in Cheapside by the lord mayor, with the usual pomp and ceremony.

CHAP. XXX.

Ravages of the Plague.—Fairs suppressed.—Confirmation of the Jurisdiction of the Court of Requests.—The right of the Corporation to the metage of Coals established.—Hawkers prohibited.—Severe Frost.—Loan.—The City jurisdiction extended.—Grant of the province of Ulster.—Public Granaries.—Inclosures destroyed.—Foundation of the Charter-house.—Customs of the Port of London. The New-river completed.—Smithfield paved.—Muster of the Citizens.—The Nobility and Gentry ordered to leave London.—Book of Sports.—Guinea Trade.—Silk Manufacture.—Exercise of the Torture.—St. Paul's Cathedral repaired.--Licenced Gaming-houses.--Spanish Ambassador assaulted.—Extraordinary proclamations. Fatal Vespers.—Two Thousand Men equipped by the City.—Act for making the Thames navigable.—Death of James I.

Great preparations were made by the citizens for the reception of their new sovereign, but the plague raged so violently at this time, that it was found necessary to postpone the ceremony to the following year, when James made his public entry into London, and was received in the most sumptuous manner.

The continuance of the plague, which carried off thirty thousand five hundred and seventy-eight persons within the year, three thousand and ninety of whom died in one week, occasioned a proclamation to be issued for suppressing Bartholomew fair, and all others within fifty miles of London: this was followed by a second proclamation, prohibiting all persons from building on any new foundation in London or within three miles of it.

The court of requests, which had been originally established by an act of common-council, was found so beneficial, that an act of parliament was obtained in 1604, to confirm the power and jurisdiction of it: but many ill-disposed persons having attempted to wrest some ambiguous words in it, to cloak their own sinister purposes, a second act was found necessary in the following year; by which the former one was confirmed, and the authority of the court extended to non-freemen, resident in the city.

In the year 1605, James granted the citizens his first charter, by which he recognized all their ancient rights and privileges, and also adjusted the disputes which had frequently taken place between the corporation and the lieutenant of the Tower, respecting the metage of coals, &c. which the latter claimed as his right; but the king, by this charter, finally determined that it was vested in the corporation of London.

On the 3d of July, 1606, his majesty paid a debt of sixty thousand pounds, contracted by Queen Elizabeth, who had borrowed that sum of the citizens of London, in 1598, and left it unpaid at her decease.

The city being still greatly pestered with foreign hawkers and pedlars, the common-council passed an act, in which it was ordained, "That no foreigner whatsoever should presume to vend his, her, or their goods in the city, by connivance or otherwise, either in house, shop, stall, or street, upon the penalty of five pounds for every offence; except such as brought provisions to the city."

The river Thames was frozen so hard, in the month of December, this year, that fairs were held on it; all sorts of diversions were exhibited, and carriages passed with safety from London to Southwark. The severity of the weather was so great, that many animals and birds perished, and the produce of the gardens was almost all destroyed.

In the month of May, 1607, the king wanting money, applied to the citizens, who, in consideration of his having discharged the debt contracted by Elizabeth, readily advanced him the sum of sixty-three thousand pounds.

In acknowledgment for this favour, his majesty soon after granted the citizens a second charter; by which he not only confirmed their ancient rights, liberties, and immunities, in the most ample manner, but also added the precincts of Duke's-place, St. Bartholomew's the Great and Less, Black and White-friars, and Cold-harbour, to the bounds of the city, and jurisdiction thereof.

In the year 1609, his majesty offered the whole province of Ulster, in Ireland, to the citizens of London, on condition that they would engage to settle an English colony there: which offer being accepted, the common-council passed an act to raise twenty thousand pounds, to carry the design into execution; and a committee was appointed, of six aldermen and eight commoners (since increased to twenty), to be annually chosen for the government thereof.

The magistrates of the city, being apprehensive that the great increase of its inhabitants might produce a famine, prepared against the evil by erecting, in 1610, twelve public granaries at Bridewell, large enough to contain six thousand quarters of corn; which, in case of a scarcity, or a combination among the dealers in that commodity, was to be sold to the poor at prime cost.

The proprietors of the lands adjoining to the city, having restrained the exercise of archery, by inclosing their fields, and removing the marks, the king, in this year, empowered commissioners to level all ditches and banks, and to remove all inclosures within two miles of the suburbs, and to reduce the fields to the state in which they were left by Henry VIII.

The religious house of the Carthusian monks, called the Charter-house, having, after its dissolution at the Reformation, come into the possession of the Earl of Suffolk, was purchased of that nobleman, in the year 1611, for thirteen thousand pounds, by Mr. Thomas Sutton, a wealthy citizen of London, in order to establish it as a charitable foundation for pensioners and scholars; for which he obtained letters patent from the king, and these were afterwards confirmed by parliament.

In the same year, Sir Baptist Hicks, one of the justices of peace for Middlesex, built the hall which was named after him, to be a sessions-house, for the accommodation of the justices, who, before this time, used to transact their business at the Castle-Inn.

An order of the privy-council was issued in the year 1613, in consequence of the complaints which were made of the decrease in the exportation of woollen goods, to take a general account of the exports and imports of all England, in order to know on which side the balance lay. Among other items of the account, is the sum of eighty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-four pounds sixteen shillings and two pence, for the customs outwards; of which sum, London paid sixty-one thousand three hundred and twenty-two pounds sixteen shillings and seven pence; which is nearly thrice as much as all the rest of England.

Sir Hugh Middleton, by virtue of several acts of parliament, passed in the late and present reign, granting powers to cut and convey a river from any part of Middlesex or Hertfordshire, to supply the city of London with a sufficient quantity of water for domestic uses, undertook, after several others had attempted it without success, to bring such a river from Chadwell and Amwell, near Ware, in Hertfordshire, to a bason, or reservoir, near Islington, on the north side of London, for that purpose. He began this work on the 20th of February, 1608, and with great difficulty, art, industry, and a prodigious expense (of, as it is recorded, no less than five hundred thousand pounds,) with the assistance of King James and the mayor and commonalty of London, he cut a trench, in some places full thirty feet deep, through ouzy, muddy, and stiff, craggy, and stony ground; and with so many windings, to find out a proper current, that it measured thirty-eight miles three quarters and six poles, from the fountain to the reservoir.

This great work was finished, so far as to be brought to the intended reservoir, but the water was not let into it, till Michaelmas-day, A. D. 1613; when Sir Thomas Middleton, lord mayor elect, and brother to the great undertaker of this scheme, accompanied by Sir John Swinnerton, lord mayor, many aldermen, the recorder, and other gentlemen, repaired to the place called New River-head, in solemn cavalcade. On their arrival, sixty labourers, handsomely dressed, with green caps, marched with pickaxes, shovels, and spades, thrice round the bason, preceded by drums and trumpets, who stopped before the mayor, &c. seated upon an eminence, and one addressed them in a long copy of verses; which being ended, the sluices were opened, and the stream ran plentifully into the reservoir, under the sound of drums and trumpets, the discharge of cannon, and loud acclamations of the spectators.

In the year 1614, West Smithfield, the market for live cattle, horses, and hay, having become almost impassable, the king issued an order to the citizens to pave it; which being readily complied with, the work was completed within six months, at an expense of sixteen hundred pounds.

This year, his majesty having appointed a general muster of the militia throughout the kingdom, the city of London mustered six thousand citizens, completely armed, who performed their evolutions with such dexterity as gained them universal applause. The martial spirit of the citizens was so great, that the children endeavoured to imitate their parents: they chose themselves officers, formed themselves into companies, often marched into the fields, with colours flying and drums beating; where, by frequent practice, they became very expert in military exercises.

About the same time, the citizens obtained a third charter from the king, which confirmed the admeasurement and metage of coals, in the port of London, viz. from Yenlet to Staines-bridge, to the corporation.

The cultivation of the province of Ulster, in Ireland, had gone on with such rapidity, that, in the year 1616, two capital towns were colonized, by the names of Londonderry and Colerain; the first of which the king formed into a city, and the latter into a corporate town, under a mayor. Soon after which, by a special commission from the king and the city of London, Sir Peter Proby, alderman of London, and governor of the colony, attended by several principal citizens, went over to Ireland, and presented each of the before-mentioned places with a rich sword of state, to be carried before their chief magistrates.

This year, the king made a visit to Scotland, previous to which he issued a very extraordinary proclamation, commanding "all noblemen, knights, and gentlemen, who have mansion-houses in the country, to depart, within twenty days after the date hereof, with their wives and families, out of the city and suburbs of London, and to return to their several habitations in the country, there to continue and abide until the end of the summer vacation, to perform the duties and charge of their places and service; and likewise, by housekeeping, to be a comfort unto their neighbours, in order to renew and revive the laudable custom of hospitality in their respective countries: excepting, however, such as have necessary occasion to attend in Our city of London, for term business, or other urgent occasions, to be signified to, and approved by, our privy-council."

In the year 1617, his majesty caused certain rules to be published, under the title of "The Book of Sports;" by which the people were tolerated to exercise recreations and diversions on the Sabbath-day. The lord mayor and citizens, together with many of the clergy, so far opposed it, that they incurred the resentment of the high commission court. Notwithstanding which, the lord mayor persevered so strongly, in showing his contempt at such an unchristian license, that he even caused the king's carriages to be stopped as they were driving through the city in the time of divine service. The matter being related to his majesty, with the most aggravating circumstances, he swore, in a great rage, "He thought there had been no more kings in England than himself." After the heat of his passion had ubsided, he sent a warrant to the mayor, commanding him to let them pass; which he obeyed, with this declaration: "While it was in my power, I did my duty; but that being taken away by a higher power, it is my duty to obey." This well-timed concession was highly pleasing to the king, and the mayor was acquitted of the breach of the royal orders, with great reputation.

An exclusive charter was granted in the following year, to Sir Robert Rich, and some other merchants of London, for raising a joint-stock, for the purpose of trading to Guinea.

About this period, the manufacturing of raw silk into broad silk fabrics, seems to have been of considerable extent; since it appears from a Treatise on the East India Trade, published by Mr. Munn, that the importation of raw silk from India, amounted annually to a million of pounds, and that many hundreds of people were continually employed in London, in winding, twisting, and weaving of silk.

It is probable, that the torturing persons accused of crimes, to compel them to confess, or to discover their accomplices, was exercised, for the last time in London, about 1619, or 1620; for, when Felton assassinated the Duke of Buckingham, in 1628, a question being submitted to the judges, on the legality of the practice, they declared, that, consistently with law, torture could not be inflicted. The following authentic copy of a record,* relative to its application, on *suspicion* of treason, is sufficient evidence that it was still resorted to at the period first named.

"To the Lieutenant of the Tower of London.

"Whereas Samuel Peacock was heretofore com-
"mitted prisoner to the Marshalsea, and that now it
"is thought fit, upon vehement suspicion of high
"treason against his majesty's sacred person, to re-
"move him thence, and to commit him to the Tower;
"these shall be, therefore, to will and require you to
"repair to the prison of the Marshalsea, and there to
"receive, from the keeper of that house, the person

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* Archæologia, Vol. X.

"of the said Samuel Peacock, and him safely to "convey under your custody unto the Tower of "London, where you are to keep him close prisoner until further order. And whereas, we "have thought meet to nominate and appoint "Sir Henry Montagu, Knt. Lord Chief Justice of "the King's-bench; Sir Thomas Coventry, Knt. "his majesty's Solicitor General, and yourself, to "examine the said Peacock, for the better discovery of the truth of this treason.' This shall "be likewise to authorise you, or any two of "you, whereof yourself to be one, to examine "the said Peacock, from time to time, and to "put him as there shall be cause, for the "better manifestation of the truth, to the torture, "either of the manacles, or the rack; for which "this shall be your warrant. And so, &c. The 19th "of February, 1619."

The officer, who received this command, was Sir Allen Apsley; and it was signed by Lord Chancellor Bacon; the Earl of Worcester, lord privy seal; the Earl of Arundell, Lord Carew, Lord Digby, Secretary Naunton, and Sir Edward Coke, who, it appears sanctioned a measure as a privy counsellor, which he, afterwards, condemned as a writer; for in his Second Institute, he says, that torture is prohibited by the following words of Magna Charter: "Nullus liber homo aliquo modo destruatur nisi per legale judicium parium suorum, aut per legem terræ."

A resolution having been formed of repairing St. Paul's cathedral, which had gone greatly to decay ever since it was set on fire by lightning, his majesty, attended by the Prince of Wales, and many of the chief nobility, came in great state from Whitehall to the city, on Sunday, the 26th of March, 1620, At Temple-bar he was received by the lord mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, in their formalities, who presented him with the city sword, and a purse of gold; the former of which being returned, it was carried by the mayor, on horseback, before his majesty, to St. Paul's cathedral; when the king, alighting at the west door, repaired to the altar, and, kneeling down before it, invoked the Almighty to give a blessing on his present design. After which, an anthem being sung, he repaired to St. Paul's cross, where he heard a sermon, and then proceeded to the Bishop of London's palace, to concert measures for the more effectual execution of this great and good work.

This year his majesty, being in great want of money, applied to the citizens for twenty thousand pounds to be raised by way of benevolence; but they would advance no more than half that sum, which was raised by the several companies.

Notwithstanding King James was a strenuous assertor of orthodox opinions, yet he was a latitudinarian in morals: as appears not only by his Book of Sports, before mentioned, but also by a grant which he this year gave to Clement Cottrel, Esq. groom-porter of his household, to licence gaming-houses for cards, dice, bowling-alleys, and tennis-courts. The numbers allowed were as follows: In London and Westminster, including the suburbs, twenty-four bowling alleys; in Southwark, four; in St. Catharine's, one; in Shoreditch, one; and in Lambeth, two: and every other town or village, within two miles of London and Westminster, was allowed one. Within these limits also, fourteen tennis-courts were tolerated, and forty taverns or ordinaries, for playing at cards and dice. The motives of this indulgence were expressed in the grant in the following terms: "For the honest and reasonable recreation of good and civil people, who, by their quality and ability, may lawfully use the games of bowling, tennis, dice, cards, tables, nine-holes, or any other game hereafter to be invented."

The following year the Londoners were so exasperated at the influence which Gondomar, the Spanish ambassador, had over the king, that they assaulted him in the public streets. At which his majesty was so enraged, that he came in person to Guildhall, and not only reprimanded the lord mayor and the other city magistrates for the insolence of the populace, but threatened to restrain them by a military power in case of such offence for the future. He likewise commanded diligent inquiry to be made after the aggressors; and one person, though no otherwise guilty than reflecting on the said ambassador, was, by order of the king, cruelly whipped the next day from Aldgate to Temple-bar.

The king, the motives of whose extraordinary edicts cannot now be ascertained, issued a proclamation in 1621, against eating flesh in Lent, by which the magistrates of London were enjoined to examine the servants of all innholders, victuallers, cooks, alehouse-keepers, taverners, &c. who sell victuals, concerning any flesh sold by them in Lent. And, in the following year, he ordered all the lords, spiritual and temporal, and gentlemen who have seats in the country, privy-counsellors, and the servants of the king and prince excepted, to leave London forthwith, to attend their service in their several counties, and to celebrate the feast of Christmas. And in a second proclamation he enjoins them, not only to remain at their seats during Christmas, but always, till his further pleasure be known. Widows of distinction were included in this order, and all whose law business required their attendance in London were commanded to leave their families in the country.

On the 24th of October, 1623, a very melancholy accident happened in the French ambassador's house in Black-friars; where a congregation of three hundred persons being assembled to hear one Drury, a famous preacher, the floor of the room, which was three stories high, gave way with the weight, and, bursting through the under floor, the preacher, with above one hundred of his hearers, were killed, and near the same number miserably wounded and otherwise maimed. This event is known in history by the name of the Fatal Vespers.

In the year 1624 his majesty issued out warrants for the immediate raising of ten thousand men for the elector palatine his son-in-law, and for the support of the protestant interest in Germany; on which occasion, the citizens, to show their affection for the king, and their zeal for the interest of that prince, readily raised two thousand men, who were completely armed and properly equipped with all necessaries for the expedition.

An act of parliament was passed in this year for making the river Thames navigable for barges, lighters, and boats, from the village of Burcot, seven miles on this side the city of Oxford, to that city "for the conveyance of Oxford free-stone, by water, to the city of London; and of coals and other necessaries, from London to Oxford, now coming at a dear rate, only by land-carriage, whereby the roads were become exceeding bad." The preamble to the act states that the river was already navigable above Oxford, and from Burcot to London; so that only seven miles of the river required to be deepened.

On the 27th of March, 1625, King James died at Theobalds, his favourite residence, of a tertian ague, in the fifty-ninth year of his age, having reigned over England upwards of twenty-two years.

CHAP. XXXI.

Accession of Charles I.—Hackney Coaches.—Arbitrary demand of Money.—The City obliged to furnish Twenty Ships.—Citizens imprisoned.—Murder of Dr. Lamb.—Tonnage and Poundage.—Riot in Fleet-street.—Stalls prohibited.—Decree against Engrossers.—Saw-mill on the Thames.—Ship-money.—Hackney Coaches prohibited.—Sedan Chairs.—Shops in Goldsmith's-row shut up.—Monopoly of ballast.—Rival Corporation.—Charter of Confirmation.—Suit in the Star-chamber relative to the Irish-Estate.—Interference of Parliament.—Tumults.—Double Watch.—The Trained-bands called out.—Further exactions.—Four Thousand Men raised.—A Second Charter of Confirmation.—Petition to the King.—A Parliam ent called.—The Citizens refuse to advance Money on the Subsidies.—Petition to the Lords.—Spanish Ambassador insulted.—Tumultuous Proceedings against the Earl of Strafford.—Dispute about the Choice of Sheriffs.

On the demise of King James, the privy-council, accompanied by the lord mayor and aldermen, repaired to Ludgate, where they were joined by the young king, whom they caused to be proclaimed with the usual solemnities.

The public entry of the king, and his bride, to whom he had been but a few days married, was intended to have taken place on the 18th of June, 1625; but, as in the former reign, this ceremony was obliged to be dispensed with on account of the plague; and the coronation was postponed until the 2d of February in the following year.

Hackney coaches are first mentioned as being used in London, in the year 1625, at which time they were only twenty in number; and, instead of standing in the streets, were kept at inns ready for call as occasion might require.

Charles had but a short time ascended the throne before those troubles commenced, which continued, in different degrees, to the period that unhappily closed his life. A war had been some time subsisting between England and France; to carry on which his majesty had applied to parliament, but they, instead of complying with his request, only answered his pleas with complaints. Thus disappointed, and determined to raise money by some means or other, he exacted loans of his subjects, and demanded one hundred thousand pounds of the city of London; but the temper of the times was altered, and they refused to comply with his request. This so irritated the privy-council, who considered the people as slaves, and their property at the disposal of their sovereign, that they prevailed on his majesty peremptorily to demand the above sum. The citizens endeavoured to evade the demand by modest apologies and excuses, which being considered by the privy-council as frivolous and insignificant, a positive order was sent to the mayor and aldermen, either to comply, or risque the consequences of an obstinate refusal. But they were inflexible in their determination, nor would they listen either to remonstrances or threats.

To punish the Londoners for this refractory conduct, they were shortly after commanded to fit out twenty of the best ships, in the river, well manned and stored with ammunition and provisions for three months. The citizens urged their inability to comply with this request, and begged that his majesty would be pleased to accept of half that number. But they were answered, "that the number demanded was necessary for the preservation of the state, and that the charge imposed did not exceed the value of some (one) of their estates: that all excuses on that occasion were to be rejected, as tending to the manifest danger of the public: and that as the said demand was not only directed to the generality of the city, but likewise to the several members, his majesty would therefore require an account of every citizen in particular." In consequence of this answer, the citizens were obliged to comply with the royal demand, which was the first instance of ship money in this reign.

But the resentment of the ministry did not stop here. Being resolved to raise money at all events, they imprisoned the most distinguished persons throughout the nation who opposed their proceedings; among others twenty of the principal citizens who had refused to consent to the loan were committed to prison, and the lower classes were forced into the land or sea-service. This impolitic conduct only tended to strengthen the resolution of the citizens, who became more determined as they found themselves more oppressed.

At length matters came to that issue, that the king, dreading the consequences of further severity, directed an order of council to be issued for the release of the gentlemen imprisoned on account of the loan; and sent orders to the lord mayor to proceed moderately in his demands on those within his jurisdiction.

It was not long, however, before a pretence was found for obtaining a sum of money from the city with more colour of justice. One Doctor Lamb, a favourite of the king, and the suspected adviser of these arbitrary proceedings, being discovered in the city, was attacked by a mob, who loaded him with the most bitter invectives, and dragged him about the streets, beating and kicking him, till at length he died under their inhuman treatment. The king, hearing of the tumult, hastened into the city in time to have saved his life, had his authority been sufficiently great, or his body-guard strong enough to have rescued him from the exasperated citizens, who, in reply to the king's intreaties, and promises that he would suffer the law to take its course if he could be proven guilty of any offence, said, "they had judged him already," and continued their outrageous conduct.

Finding he could neither chastise nor repress this insolence, he returned to his palace; and soon after the privy-council sent a letter to the lord mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, commanding them to make strict inquiry after the principal actors and abettors, and to bring them to justice; but so little attention was paid to this order, that an answer was returned that they could not discover any of them. On this they were summoned to attend the privy-council, where they were threatened with the confiscation of their charter if they did not apprehend and deliver up the principal actors in the riot. But this made no impression upon their resolution to skreen the parties sought after; for their next report was, "that they could not be found." The king was so incensed at this, that he amerced the city in a fine of six thousand pounds, which was afterwards mitigated to fifteen hundred marks, on the committal of several of the rioters.

The following year the ministry adopted another expedient to raise money without parliamentary authority; which was to impose new duties on merchandize by order of privy-council only; and those who had resolution to oppose the said order had their effects arbitrarily seized on, and others, by command of the king, were committed to prison.

In the year 1630, the sheriffs' officers having arrested a man in Fleet-street, the populace, in a tumultuous manner, attempted his rescue; but being strongly opposed by the constables, a desperate fray ensued, in which many persons were killed, and others dangerously wounded. In order to suppress this dangerous commotion, the lord mayor issued a proclamation for apprehending the ring-leaders, many of whom being taken were tried and convicted of murder; but only one, who was the chief of the rioters, was executed.

In the following year, the streets of London being greatly incumbered with stalls and stands for the sale of various goods, in defiance of the laws against those nuisances, the common-council enacted, "that no inhabitant whatever should presume to sell any thing in the streets or lanes of the city, on pain of forfeiting for the first offence twenty shillings, for the second forty shillings, for the third four pounds, and for each offence afterwards the penalty to be doubled.

Complaint being made of the evil practices of engrossers, and also of the vintners, bakers, &c. in London, a decree was issued by the Star-chamber, in 1633, for reforming these abuses, by which engrossing and regrating, as well as the other evils complained of, were strictly forbidden.

A saw-mill, or engine for sawing timber, was erected, in this year, on the river Thames, opposite to Durham-yard, but so little was the advantages of a saving of labour then understood, that it was shortly after suppressed, "lest our labouring people should want employment."

The citizens of London were much irritated, in the following year, by the king's arbitrary order to them, without the assent of parliament, to fit out and send to Portsmouth, seven ships with ordnance, men, and provisions for twenty-six weeks, viz. one ship of nine hundred tons, and three hundred and fifty men: one of eight hundred tons, and two hundred and sixty men: four of five hundred tons, and two hundred men: and one of three hundred tons, and one hundred and fifty men. The enumeration of this equipment will give some idea of the state of the shipping, in the port of London at this period.

So unwilling were the citizens to comply with this order that a court of common-council was called, by which an address was prepared and ordered to be laid before the king, claiming an exemption from such demands. But the effect produced by their remonstrance was very different from what they expected, since it was followed by the extension of the mandate to every county in England and Wales; but, instead of ships, which were nominally the object of the king's demand, a considerable sum of money was obliged to be paid as a commutation, whence it acquired the name of ship-money.

A proclamation was issued in the month of January, 1635, for preventing hackney coaches from plying in the streets for hire, "because the common passages were obstructed by them so as to render the streets dangerous to his majesty and the nobility;" but though this was the pretended reason it is probable that a more powerful one existed, for, about the same time, a monopoly was obtained by Sir Sanders Duncomb for "the sole privilege to use, let, or hire, a number of covered chairs, for fourteen years," which, in common with the many monopolies then granted by the court, was not obtained without money. The order respecting hackney coaches was not, however, of long duration, for, in 1637, they were again licensed.

The levying of ship-money was a source of continual disputes between the ministry and the citizens of London. The obstinacy of the latter, though unsuccessful, yet occasioned so much ill-will at court, that every method that could be devised to harrass them was put in practice. Thus, in 1636, an order was sent from the privy council, in the king's name, to the lord mayor and aldermen, commanding them to shut up all the shops in Goldsmith's-row (the south side of Cheapside and Lombard-street) that were not occupied by goldsmiths; and this order was shortly after enforced by a decree of the Star-chamber. The citizens, however, paid no regard to these mandates; and, soon after, another letter was sent to them, commanding them to inform the deputies of the wards, through which these streets passed, that, if they did not forthwith put their former directions on the subject into execution, such further orders should be given, that should teach them to know, that the commands of that board were not to be treated with contempt.

About this time, the king monopolized the ballast raised from the river Thames; ordering, by proclamation, that no one should purchase any ballast from thence, but such as were employed by him for that purpose. He also erected a rival corporation to London, by incorporating "all the tradesmen and artificers, inhabiting such places in the city of London, as were exempted from the freedom thereof; as also those in the out-parts of Westminster and Middlesex, within three miles of the said city of London."

Notwithstanding the discontent which prevailed at this time, between the citizens and the king, yet, in 1638, he granted the corporation of London a charter, wherein he confirmed all their former privileges, the garbling of tobacco only excepted. The granting of this charter, however, must not be considered as a free gift; for the citizens paid very considerable sums to obtain that confirmation of their ancient privileges from Charles, which had been so readily granted by his predecessors.

These recently confirmed privileges were not long respected; for, in the year 1639, the ministry, in an arbitrary and illegal manner, commenced a suit in the court of Star-chamber, against the lord mayor and citizens, together with the governor and assistants of the new plantation in the province of Ulster, in Ireland, in order to deprive them of the improvements they had made, at a very considerable expense, in that province; when, after a hearing of seventeen days, the defendants were condemned to lose all their lands and possessions, which had been granted them by his late majesty in that kingdom; and, at the same time, the court amerced the citizens in a fine of fifty thousand pounds.

The parliament now thought it high time to interfere in behalf of the citizens of London, and to put an end to the arbitrary proceedings of the court; they accordingly came to such resolutions as obliged the king to declare the decree unlawful, and to confirm the grant of the province, made to the city by his father.

In 1640, the city was called upon by the privy council to raise twelve hundred men, to be sent against the Scots; which was performed, and the men shipped at Blackwall, though not without great discontent on the part of the populace, who could scarcely be kept within bounds; and, on the 11th of May, the apprentices and others, invited by a paper stuck up in the Royal Exchange, assembled at night, to the number of five hundred, and marched to Lambeth, with an intent to plunder the palace, and murder the archbishop, whom they accused of being a principal instigator of all the ministerial oppressions. But the prelate being apprized of their coming, had provided such a defence, that their intentions were frustrated, and they were obliged to retire. The following day, upwards of two thousand of the populace rushed into St. Paul's, at the time the high commission court was sitting, where they tore down all the benches, crying out, "No bishop! No high commission!"

These outrages greatly alarming the court, the privy council sent an order to the lord mayor, to provide a double watch, and to oblige every housekeeper to keep his apprentices and servants at home, and not suffer them to go out of their houses at any hour, till further orders.

The lord mayor strictly obeyed these orders; notwithstanding which, so turbulent and enraged were the citizens in general against the court and ministry, for their despotic government, that they stuck up papers in various parts of the city, exciting the people to a general insurrection. This occasioned another order from the privy council, commanding the lord mayor to draw forth the city trained bands, the more effectually to suppress all disorderly and riotous meetings.

Notwithstanding these indications of general disaffection, the king continued firm to his infatuated purpose of subduing the spirit of the people. The privy council summoned the lord mayor and aldermen to attend, in order to give in the names of such citizens in each ward, as were able to advance money for the service of the king. The sum demanded by the privy council was two hundred thousand pounds, which the lord mayor and aldermen were ordered to raise, according to the abilities of the respective wards. Several aldermen, who refused obedience, were committed to prison; and an order was afterwards issued by the privy council, to prosecute the lord mayor, and the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, for default in the prosecution of the writ of ship-money.

Shortly after, the king ordered the citizens to raise four thousand men, to join the army intended to march against the Scots; which they complied with, on a promise that the expense should be repaid out of the exchequer.

The citizens, after this, advanced the king the sum of four thousand two hundred pounds; in consideration of which, he granted them another charter, confirming all their former privileges of package, scavage, and baillage; to which he now adds that of the carriage and portage of all merchandize whatsoever; with a clause to prohibit every porter or other person from carrying, lading or unlading any goods, without the special licence of the mayor and commonalty; and it concludes with giving power and authority to the said mayor and his proper officers, in the foresaid employments, "to give and administer the oath upon the holy evangelists, from time to time, to all such persons, suspected, or to be suspected of withdrawings, concealments, colourings, frauds, covins. And that it shall and may be lawful to the said mayor, his minister, and deputy, or officer for the time being, by all lawful ways and means, to compel all such persons suspected, or to be suspected, as shall refuse or deny to take the said oath, to take the same oath." Which charter is dated the 5th day of September, in the sixteenth year of his reign.

The grievances under which the nation had so long laboured continuing unredressed, the citizens of London drew up a petition to the king to call a new parliament, in the hope of being freed, by its means, from the many impositions which had been laid on them. As this petition contains a summary of the complaints which then agitated the people, and will throw great light on the short sketch of the civil war, which the limits of this work will admit of, it is inserted at length.

" Most gracious sovereign,

" Being moved with duty and obedience, which, by the laws, your petitioners owe unto your sacred majesty, they humbly present unto your princely and pious wisdom, the several pressing grievances following:

" 1. The pressing and unusual impositions upon merchandize, importing and exporting, and the urging and levying of ship-money; notwithstanding both which, merchant ships and goods have been taken and destroyed, both by Turkish and other pirates.

" 2. The multitude of monopolies, patents, and warrants, whereby trade in the city, and other parts of the kingdom, is much decayed.

" 3. The sundry innovations in matters of religion.

" 4. The oath of canons, lately enjoined by the late convocation; whereby your petitioners are in danger to be deprived of their ministers.

" 5. The great concourse of papists, and their habitations in London and the suburbs; whereby they have more means and opportunity of plotting and executing their designs against the religion established.

" 6. The seldom calling, and sudden dissolutions of parliaments, without the redress of grievances.

" 7. The imprisonment of divers citizens for non-payment of ship-money, and impositions; and the prosecution of many others in the Star-chamber, for not conforming themselves to committees in patents of monopolies, whereby trade is restrained.

" 8. The great danger your sacred person is exposed unto in the present war, and the various fears that seized upon your petitioners and their families, by reason thereof; which grievances and fears have occasioned so great a stop and distraction in trade, that your petitioners can neither buy, sell, receive, or pay, as formerly, and tends to the utter ruin of the inhabitants of this city, the decay of navigation and clothing, and the manufactures of this kingdom.

"Your humble petitioners, conceiving that the said grievances are contrary to the laws of this kingdom, and finding, by experience, that they are not redressed by the ordinary course of justice, do therefore most humbly beseech your most sacred majesty, to cause a parliament to be summoned, with all convenient speed, whereby they may be relieved in the premises.

"And your petitioners and loyal subjects shall ever pray, &c."

The privy council, suspecting that disagreeable consequences might arise to them from the presenting this petition to the king, in order to prevent its being carried into execution, sent a letter to the lord mayor and aldermen, telling them, that such a petition was very dangerous, and unwarranted by the charter and customs of the city; and that it was unnecessary, as his majesty was already taking the said grievances into consideration. The citizens paid little attention to this letter from the ministry, but, on the contrary, sent the petition by a deputation from the court of aldermen and common-council to his majesty, who was at that time with his army at York.

This petition had so far the desired effect, that his majesty, in a letter dated the 25th of September, promised them a parliament should be immediately called, to redress their grievances; but a request was at the same time added, for a loan of two hundred thousand pounds, to enable him to pay his troops, and conduct a negotiation with the Scots to a satisfactory conclusion. The citizens engaged to advance the sum required, on condition that the noblemen, at that time with his majesty, would join in security for the re-payment of the same; which they readily assenting to, the loan was accordingly negotiated.

To fulfil his promise to the city, the king summoned a parliament, which met on the 3d of November; when Alderman Pennington, in the name of the city, presented a petition, with a schedule of twenty-eight articles of grievances annexed, and signed by upwards of fifteen thousand citizens. The object of this petition was, the abolition of the episcopal government of the church, with all its dependencies, roots, and branches. This was followed by an absolute refusal to advance the king one hundred thousand pounds upon the credit of the subsidy bills: in their answer to the application, they said, " that the city was not a body constituted for any such purpose, nor able to make laws for the lending of money; and that they could only persuade, and not compel."

This was followed by a petition to the House of Lords, signed by twenty thousand citizens, to accelerate the punishment of the Earl of Strafford; "who," they said, " had counselled the plundering of the city, and putting it to fine and ransom, and had said that it would never be well till some of the aldermen were hanged up; because they would not yield to illegal levies of money." The petition also enumerated the grievances they complained of to the king; which they stated to be unattended to, notwithstanding his majesty's promises.

From the spirit of petitioning, they proceeded to unjustifiable measures. Their first outrage was directed against the Spanish ambassador's chapel, in Bishopsgate-street. where a considerable mob assembled,

bled, and threatened to destroy it, and even to kill the ambassador, for permitting English papists to frequent it. The timely intervention and persuasions of the lord mayor, prevented their threats from being carried into execution; and, after the mob was dispersed, he set a guard round the ambassador's house, which, while it protected him from insult, prevented the catholic citizens from attending mass at his house.

On the Sunday following, the pulpits rung with the necessity of having justice executed upon a great delinquent, meaning the Earl of Strafford; there being a design to bring the army to London, to surprise the Tower, and favour his escape. This produced such an effect, that, next day, six thousand of the citizens repaired in a hostile manner to Westminster, and, posting themselves in all the avenues to the House of Lords, stopped the coaches, and cried out for justice on Strafford: they likewise presented a petition to the house to the same effect.

The lords complained to the commons of these tumultuous proceedings; but the citizens would not disperse, until they had seen the protestation of both houses of parliament, for the defence of the king and kingdom.

About this time, a dispute arose between the lord mayor and commonalty of the city, about the right of choosing one of the sheriffs, which the former claimed by a prescription of three hundred years, without the approbation and confirmation of the latter: the commonalty admitted of the mayor's nominating a person proper for that office, but insisted he should not serve unless by their assent. The lord mayor and aldermen applied to the king to determine the controversy; but, as he did not choose to interfere personally, in so critical a time, when his own power was publicly disputed, he referred them to the House of Lords. The peers, at first, recommended an accommodation among themselves; but this not proving sufficiently effectual, their lordships thought proper (with a salvo on each side) to issue the following order:

"That, for this time, the commonalty shall forthwith proceed to the nomination and election of both their sheriffs for the year following; hoping that, for the first of the two sheriffs, they will make choice of that party that was nominated by the lord mayor: and their lordships do further declare, that this order shall be no way prejudicial to any right or prerogative claimed by the lords, the mayors of the city of London, for the time being; nor yet to any right or claim made by the commons or citizens in this matter, now in question amongst them."

CHAP. XXXII.

Apparent Cordiality between the King and the Citizens.—Petitions to the House of Commons.—Tumults.—The King comes into the City to demand the accused Members.—Committee of Parliament escorted to Westminster.—Trained-bands appointed to guard the Parliament.—Demand of Men and Money.—Defensive Measures.—Deputation concerning the Battle of Edge-hill. Apprentices encouraged to enlist.—The City fortified.—Brentford taken by the royal Forces.—Heavy Assessment.—-Plot to admit the King's Troops.—-Commerce with London prohibited.-—Petitions to Parliament.-—Riot.—-Relief of Gloucester.—-Solemn League and Covenant.--Treaty of Reconciliation.--Excise.—Aid sent to the royal Army.—Address to the Parliament.—Obstructions to the Trade of the City.—-Royalists flock to the City after the Battle of Naseby.—-Internal Divisions. The Army and Parliament differ.—London menaced.—Reconciliation between the Army and the City.—-Engagement to restore the King.—Tumultuous Petition.—The Army enter London.—Fortifications demolished.-—The Army quartered on the Citizens.—-Death of the King.

On King Charles's return from Scotland, he was met at Kingsland by the mayor, aldermen, and recorder, in their formalities, and conducted through the city to Guildhall, where he, with the queen, the Duke of York, and Princess Mary, were sumptuously entertained, and, after dinner, conducted with equal state to Whitehall. From the great apparent cordiality with which his majesty was received by the citizens, on this day, and from the tumultuous acclamations of joy of the lower class of people, it might have been supposed, that Charles possessed the whole hearts of his subjects, at least in London.

And so cordially did the king return these marks of affection, that, on occasion of an address being presented from the city on the following day, he made the lord mayor a baronet, and knighted all the aldermen who attended; after which, the whole committee were elegantly entertained by the Marquis of Dorset, in the king's name.

But the seeds of discontent lurked beneath these flattering appearances, and, in a few days, began to be perceptible. On the 11th of December, (Charles returned on the 25th of November) a petition, signed by twenty thousand citizens, was presented to the House of Commons, by Mr. Fookes, attended by two hundred merchants, and others, complaining of the growth of popery, and praying the said house, that they would take speedy and effectual means to deliver the city and nation from the danger of being surprised by their bloody hands, from the obstructions they caused in the trade of this city and kingdom, and for immediate reformation in religion. This petition was inscribed, "The humble petition of the aldermen, common-council-men, subsidy-men, and other inhabitants, of the city of London and suburbs thereof." Another petition, of the like nature, was presented the same day, by the city apprentices. The petitions were favourably received.

On the 23d of the same month, the king, having discharged Sir William Belfour from the lieutenancy of the Tower of London, appointed Colonel Lunsford, a person very obnoxious to the House of Commons, to succeed him. This removal so highly displeased the citizens, whose interest was inseparable from that of the commons, that they drew up, and presented a petition to the house, stiled, "The humble petition of divers common-council-men, and others, of the city of London;" the substance of which was, "That the Tower of London was more especially intended for the defence of the city of London, which had lately been put into fears of some dangerous design from that citadel.—That Sir William Belfour, a person of honour and trust, is displaced from the office of lieutenant, and the same is bestowed upon Colonel Lunsford, a man outlawed, and most notorious for outrages, etc.—May it therefore please this honourable assembly to take the premises into such consideration as may secure both the city and the kingdom against the mischiefs which may happen, etc."

This petition occasioned the commons to request a conference with the lords; but the latter refused joining with them to address his majesty for the removal of Lunsford; alleging, that they conceived it would be an infringement on his majesty's prerogative. The lord mayor, however, on the Sunday following, waited on the king at Whitehall, where he represented the dissatisfaction of the people, at the promotion of the said Lunsford, and informed him of a general insurrection being intended by the citizens, should Lunsford be continued in the lieutenancy of the Tower. On which his majesty was graciously pleased to remove him from the said office.

Before this was publicly known, the citizens and apprentices, who had petitioned against Lunsford and the bishops, assembled in a large body, and proceeded to Westminster, crying out, "No bishops! No bishops! No popish lords!" This so irritated the Bishop of Lincoln, who was then passing to Westminster, that he imprudently seized one of the most active in the mob; but the populace immediately rescued their comrade, and, after dinning his ears with "No bishop! No bishop!" permitted the terrified prelate to depart. One Captain Hyde, with some of his friends, being fired with indignation at such treatment of a bishop, was still more imprudent; for he drew his sword, and threatened to cut the throats of those round-headed dogs, who bawled against the bishops: for which he was seized by the apprentices, and carried before the House of Commons, who not only immediately committed him to prison, but declared him incapable of ever serving his majesty after.

Colonel Lunsford, going to Westminster the same day, was so irritated at the insolence of the mob, that he also drew his sword; on which a scuffle ensued, and several persons were wounded. This commotion soon reaching the city, the lord mayor and sheriffs took such precautions, as prevented any considerable number from getting out of the gates of the city. After which, his lordship patroled the streets all night, and, in the morning, raised the trained bands, to preserve the peace of the city.

The king, on this occasion, sent a message to the common-council, commanding them to preserve peace, and concluding in these words: "We do desire them (the Londoners) not to be disturbed by any jealousies, that ill-affected people may endeavour to sow, but to rest most confident, and assured, that the safety, protection, and prosperity of the city, shall ever be, with Us, a principal care."

These tumults, which were chiefly confined to the vicinity of Whitehall, increased daily; insomuch, that the person of the king seemed to be endangered by the licentiousness of a misguided mob. In this scene of confusion, some disbanded officers, and gentlemen of the inns of court, offered their service to his majesty, to keep the rabble in subjection. The countenance the king gave to this proceeding, proved a fatal measure to him; since it gave the House of Commons a pretence for sanctioning the tumults, and for making a formal demand for a guard to be set over the parliament. This demand, however, was rejected.

The flame of discord now began to blaze without restraint. A prosecution having been commenced by the attorney-general, against one peer and five commoners, for high treason, both houses of parliament voted all the proceedings to be a high breach of privilege; and the accused members, having received intimation that it was the king's intention to seize them in the house, retired, for security, into the city of London, where the citizens armed themselves in their defence.

His majesty, having miscarried in his design of securing the five members impeached, came into the city, on the 5th of January, to demand the assistance of the citizens to find them out. On his way thither, the people cried out, in a tumultuous manner, "Privileges of parliament!" And one of them threw into his majesty's coach a paper, on which was written, "To your tents, O Israel!" for which he was immediately apprehended, and committed to prison. His majesty being arrived at Guildhall, where the court of common-council, by his order, was assembled, addressed himself to them, saying he came to demand persons already accused of high treason, and to desire their assistance to bring them to a legal trial. He then made new professions of his zeal for the protestant religion, and his determination to prosecute all such, either papists or separatists, who should oppose the laws and statutes of the kingdom. Having finished his harangue, he left the hall, and, after dining with one of the sheriffs, returned to Whitehall, without receiving that applause which he expected, or being farther insulted by the populace.

The citizens, however, neither approving of the king's demand, nor his declaration, drew up an answer, by way of remonstrance; which was directed to him, from the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of London: in which, after representing their fears and danger, by reason of the bloody progress of the rebels in Ireland, fermented, and acted by the papists and their adherents; the throwing out people of trust and honour from the lieutenancy of the Tower, and the preparations there lately made; the fortifying of Whitehall, in an unusual manner, with men and ammunition, and the drawing swords, and wounding many citizens that were unarmed, in Westminster-hall; they concluded as follows: "The petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray your most sacred majesty, that, by the advice of your great council in parliament, the protestants in Ireland may be speedily relieved; the Tower put into the hands of persons of trust; that, by removal of doubtful and unknown persons from about Whitehall and Westminster, a known and approved guard may be appointed, for the safety of his majesty and the parliament; and that the Lord Mandeville, otherwise Kimbolton, and the five members of the House of Commons, lately accused, may not be restrained of liberty, or be proceeded against, otherwise than according to privileges of parliament."

To this remonstrance the king returned an answer, in which he endeavoured to satisfy them, with respect to all the points complained of, by general professions; but these appeared so evasive, as to give but small satisfaction to the citizens.

The grand committee appointed by the house of commons to sit in Guildhall to deliberate on such things as might be most beneficial to the safety of the city and the kingdom, finding great interruption from the business of the city, adjourned to Grocers'-hall, where they concerted measures for their safe return to Westminster on the day of the meeting of parliament; and, taking advantage of the temper of the times, they directed the sheriffs to raise the *posse comitatus* to guard them on that occasion. At the same time, an offer made by the sailors in the river to escort them by water was accepted.

On the 11th of January, the committee, with the Lord Kimbolton and the five accused members of the House of Commons, went to Westminster in great state, guarded by forty long-boats armed with small pieces of ordnance, and were received on landing by the city trained-bands.

When the committee and members were safe arrived, the sheriffs and those who had conducted the boats, were called into the house, and were thanked for their services, and indemnified from future question for their conduct: after which, the house ordered that two companies of the trained-bands should attend the house daily, and, for the security of the stores in the Tower, the sheriffs were ordered to place a sufficient guard round it, both by land and water.

The use that might be made of the London militia was so manifest to the House of Commons, that they took them out of the power of the lord mayor, whom they found to be materially influenced by the court; and ordained, " that the persons entrusted with the ordering of the militia of London, should have power to draw the trained-bands of the city into such usual and convenient places, within three miles of the city, as to them from time to time should seem meet, for the training and exercising of the soldiers; and that the said soldiers, upon summons, should, from time to time, appear, and not depart from their colours without the consent of their officers, as they would answer their contempt to the parliament."

The proceedings in the metropolis had at length assumed so serious an aspect, that the king found it necessary, for his safety, to remove from it. It would be foreign to our purpose to enter into the detail of all the remonstrances, protests, declarations, and messages, which passed between the king and the commons during this period of confusion and revolt; we shall therefore confine ourselves to those occurrences in which London bore a principal share.

The first event of that description which occurred after the king's departure was a demand on the city by the parliament for large supplies of men and money, which, coming to the knowledge of the king, he sent a letter to the lord mayor, commanding him and the citizens of London not to lend or contribute the said supplies to the parliament, under the penalty of his displeasure, and the forfeiture of their charters. The parliament, in consequence of this, made a declaration, justifying their demands, and promising protection and security to those who should contribute to their assistance. And, as an example of their power and authority, they committed Sir Richard Gurney, lord mayor, to the Tower of London, for causing his majesty's commission of array to be proclaimed in divers parts of the city; and preferred several articles of impeachment against him, for which he was, by the sentence of the peers, not only divested of the office of mayor, but likewise rendered, for ever, incapable of bearing any office or receiving further honour; and also to remain a prisoner in the Tower of London during the pleasure of parliament.

The king, having collected a force which was considered sufficient to restore him to his authority, advanced from York, where he had taken refuge, towards London.

Intimation being given of the king's approach, the parliament ordered the London trained-bands to be in readiness, and all the passages and avenues leading to the city to be fortified with posts, chains, and courts of guard. The citizens, on this occasion, were so alarmed, that a great number of all ranks, ages, and sexes, applied so diligently to work in digging and carrying of earth, that their fortifications were soon accomplished.

After the battle of Edge-hill, which was fought on the 23d of October, the parliament fearing the bad consequences which might arise from a belief that an advantage had been gained over their forces by the royalists, sent the Earls of Pembroke and Holland, and the Lords Warton and Say, to give the lord mayor and citizens the most favourable representation of the action, and to animate them to a vigorous support of the parliamentary forces. The deputies accordingly went to Guildhall, where they exerted themselves strenuously in persuading the citizens to arm themselves and their apprentices in defence of the common cause.

About this time an order was made for shutting up all the shops in London, that the shop-keepers and apprentices might be at greater freedom to attend to the defence of the kingdom. And, in order to increase their forces, an ordinance was published, for the encouragement of apprentices to enlist; in which they were promised security against the forfeiture of indentures, bonds, or franchisements; and that, when the public service was ended, their masters should be compelled to receive them without punishment or prejudice. The masters were also promised satisfaction for whatever losses they might sustain by the absence of such apprentices.

The common-council, about this time, passed an act for the better defence of the city, by fortifying it with out-works at certain places. It was also enacted, that all the passages and ways leading to the city should be shut up, excepting those entering at Charing-cross, St. Giles's in the Fields, St. John's-street, Shoreditch, and Whitechapel; and that the exterior ends of the said streets should be fortified with breast-works, musket proof; that all the sheds and buildings contiguous to London-wall without, be taken down; and that the city-wall, with its bulwarks, be not only repaired and mounted with artillery, but likewise that divers new works be added to the same at places most exposed to danger.

This work was immediately begun, and prosecuted with such dispatch, that a rampart, or wall, with bastions, redoubts, &c. was in a short time erected round the cities of London and Westminster, and the borough of Southwark: and, in order to defray the expense attending it, the common-council imposed eight fifteenths on the several wards of the city, which was afterwards confirmed by an ordinance of parliament.

The royal army continued to advance, and had reached Colnbrook, when intelligence was given to the king, that Essex, the parliament's general, was fortifying Brentford; whereupon, a council being called, it was determined to attack him before his works were completed. This service was executed with great alacrity and judgment, by Prince Rupert, whose measures were so well concerted, that not a man of the parliament's forces in Brentford escaped: the whole were either killed, drowned, or taken prisoners.

Essex now drew up his main body, at Turnham Green, to prevent the further advance of the royal forces to the capital, where he was joined by the trained-bands from the city, which increased his army so much, that Charles thought it prudent to retire over Kingston-bridge to Oatlands, from whence he proceeded to Reading and Oxford.

At this time the parliament passed an order for a general assessment throughout the kingdom, which in London, exclusive of Westminster and the suburbs, amounted to the enormous sum of ten thousand pounds weekly: yet, such was the spirit of the citizens in opposition to the king, that no difficulty was found in raising it.

A plan was now concerted by Sir Nicholas Crispe and the royalists within the city for seizing the Tower and admitting the king's troops: for which purpose they obtained a commission from the king, constituting them a council of war for the cities of London and Westminster, Southwark, and the county of Middlesex; but the scheme was discovered by a servant belonging to one of the association; and two of the principals in it were hung before their own doors, one in Holborn and the other in Cornhill; several others died in prison, and the estates of all were confiscated. Waller, the poet, was concerned in this plot: he was condemned to death, but obtained a reprieve, and at length procured a pardon on payment of a fine of ten thousand pounds.

His majesty finding the Londoners were more strongly attached to the parliament, and that his obtaining their friendship was impracticable, issued a proclamation, forbidding all commerce with London. On which the common-council, the day following the date of the said proclamation, made an act for raising the sum of fifty thousand pounds by way of loan, on the security of the city seal, to be employed in defence of the city; and at the same time passed an order to move the parliament for an ordinance, to compel all monied men, within the bills of mortality, to advance money on this occasion, in proportion to their respective abilities.

A rumour prevailing at this time among the citizens, that the parliament were diposed to accommodate matters with the king, the lord mayor summoned a common-council, who presented a petition to the House of Commons, in the strongest terms, against a reconciliation. When his lordship presented the above petition, he was attended by such a prodigious concourse of citizens, that many of the members withdrew from the house through fear; and those who continued and received the petition, requested his lordship to prevent such riotous proceedings for the future. The petition was approved of, and the propositions of peace with the king were rejected.

This was soon after followed by another petition, intituled, " The humble petition of many civilly-disposed women, inhabiting in the cities of London and Westminster, the suburbs and parts adjacent." It was carried up on the 9th of August, by some thousands of the meaner sort of women, with white ribbons in their hats. The purport of their petition was, " That God's glory, in the true reformed religion, might be preserved, the just prerogatives of king and parliament maintained, the true liberties and properties of the subject, according to the known laws of the land, restored, and all honourable ways and means for a speedy peace endeavoured." The commons, after reading their petition, returned them for answer, that they were no enemies to peace, and that they hoped, in a short time, to answer the ends of their petition. But this not satisfying them, they continued about the house, and, before noon, increased to upwards of five thousand; among whom were several men dressed in women's clothes.

They crowded about the house, calling out, "Peace! peace!" and demanding the traitors who were averse to it; particularly, "that dog, Pym." At length, these *civilly-disposed* women became so outrageous, that it was found necessary to oppose them by force. A party of the trained-bands were therefore sent for; but, instead of being intimidated at their appearance, the mob assailed them with such fury, that they were forced to fire in their own defence; when several being killed, and others wounded, the rest thought it prudent to withdraw.

Gloucester being closely besieged by the king, the relief of that city was now the object of immediate consideration. The common-council ordered the city companies to advance five hundred thousand pounds more; for which they were to be secured by a joint-bond from the lord mayor and aldermen. The parliament issued an ordinance, commanding all shops, within the line of communication, to be shut, until the siege of Gloucester should be raised. The committee of the trained-bands sent out six regiments, one of horse, two of trained-bands, and three of auxiliaries; who, joining the main army, under the Earl of Essex, marched with all expedition to the neighbourhood of Gloucester. On their arrival near the city, the royalists were so intimidated, that the king raised the siege with great precipitation.

The relief of Gloucester was followed by a very severe battle, fought at Newbury, in which the city trained-bands behaved with such bravery and resolution, as to be the principal means of not only preserving the army of the Earl of Essex, but, also, contributing greatly to the success of the parliament in their future proceedings; for it disabled the king from making any farther attempts to reduce London to his obedience, and ruined his interest among those dubious persons, who waited to declare for the strongest party. The battle of Newbury was the longest and most desperate of any, during the course of this unnatural war; for it began about six o'clock in the morning, and continued till seven at night, with the greatest obstinacy on both sides.

The parliament having subscribed a solemn league and covenant, made at Edinburgh, passed an ordinance, on the 17th of September, that none should act under their authority, who had not received it; in consequence of which, no one was permitted to elect, or be elected, a common-council-man, until he had conformed to this test of religious principles.

In October, an act of common-council was passed, by which one thousand and ninety-seven watchmen were ordered to be provided, and paid by the several wards and precincts, for the better security of the city by night.

Notwithstanding his majesty had, by proclamation, prohibited all manner of trade and intercourse with the city of London, yet matters had been so concerted to bring about a treaty of reconciliation, by some who were advocates for the royal cause, that his majesty, on the 26th of December, wrote a letter for that purpose, directed to the lord mayor, aldermen, and all other well-affected subjects of the city; which his majesty desired might be read in a common-hall, to be called on the occasion. This business, however, being discovered to the parliament, Sir Basil Brook, and two others, who were the principal projectors of the negotiation, were taken into custody, together with the king's letter; and a committee of eight lords and sixteen commoners were deputed to lay this under-hand transaction before a common hall. The Earl of Northumberland, who was one of the lords deputed, spoke at the hall so strongly against a design, which he represented as a popish scheme to disunite the parliament and the city, that new assurances were reciprocally given, of abiding by each other; and the members of both houses were invited to dine with the corporation, at Merchant-Taylor's-hall.

The wants of the parliament were exceedingly pressing, and they were consequently obliged to have recourse to new expedients to raise money. Accordingly, in the latter part of this year, they laid a tax on beer and ale, in all the counties within the limits of their power; calling it by the new name, *Excise*. This was the origin of the excise duties, which afterwards met with so much opposition from the people.

In the beginning of 1644, the city sent two regiments of auxiliaries, to join the parliament army under Sir William Waller, who gained a victory over the royal forces, shortly after. In the battle, the troops belonging to the city behaved with the greatest courage and intrepidity; and the victory was considered of such importance, that a public thanksgiving was ordered to be observed, on the 9th of April, throughout London, and the bills of mortality.

On the 16th of May, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented an address or petition to the parliament, thanking them for the great care they had taken for the preservation of the public good, and exhorting them to perseverance. They particularly thanked them, for their especial care of the Tower of London, and Castle of Windsor; but expressed some dissatisfaction, at the discontinuance of the committee of parliament, at the want of execution upon delinquents, the not putting Tilbury Fort into safe hands, and at the endeavours of divers members of parliament, to gain re-admittance, after having betrayed their trust, by bearing arms against the parliament.

The commons returned a full and satisfactory answer to all these points, and concluded with declaring, that they would, in a most particular manner, be mindful of the merit of the city, which, upon all occasions, they should acknowledge, and would endeavour to requite.

The trade of the city, westward, by water, being greatly obstructed by the garrisons of Greenland and Basing-houses, situated near the river Thames, the city sent out two brigades of horse and foot, under the command of Colonel Brown, who attacked, and obliged them to retire; by which means, the navigation of the river was soon restored. At the same time, the Marquis of Newcastle, who had got possession of the coal-trade, in the river Tyne, prohibited the exportation of coals to London. To remove the inconveniences arising from the want of this article, the parliament issued an ordinance for supplying the city with turf and peat, with power to the lord mayor to nominate and appoint persons to enter into, and dig any quantity of turf and peat, in and upon any grounds, except orchards, gardens, and walks.

The decisive battle of Navesby, in which the king was so effectually defeated, that it produced the irretrievable ruin of his affairs in all quarters, was fought on the 14th of June, 1645; and on the 19th, both houses of parliament attended a thanksgiving sermon, at Christ's-church, Newgate-street; after which they were elegantly entertained by the citizens at Grocer's-hall. A short time after, a committee was sent from the parliament, to solicit a loan from the city, of thirty thousand pounds, to enable them to pay arrears due to the Scotch army. The corporation complied so readily with this request, that they received the thanks of both houses on the occasion.

The defeat and dispersion of the king's troops occasioned great numbers of the royalists to retire to London; which produced a report, that the king intended coming privately to the city. The parliament were so alarmed at this report, that they issued an ordinance, empowering the city trained-bands to search for delinquents, and expel them from all places within the bills of mortality. This was followed by three other ordinances: the first, empowering the city militia to secure the king's person; the second, commanding all papists, and those who had borne arms against the parliament, to depart out of the lines of communication, round London and Westminster, on pain of being treated as spies; and the third, declaring, that whoever should harbour or conceal the person of the king, should be proceeded against as a traitor to the government of England.

This report, however, soon appeared to be erroneous: for the king, instead of coming to London, threw himself into the power of the Scotch army, who were then at Newcastle; from whence his majesty wrote a letter to the lord mayor and aldermen of London, in which he expressed his full resolution of complying with the parliaments of both kingdoms, in every thing that might be concerted by them, for settling truth and peace. This letter, however, was so far from producing the wished-for consequences, that peace was farther distant than ever.

While the turbulent minds of the multitude found an object to employ them in the person of the king and his cause, the city was but little disturbed by internal dissensions, but when, by his defeat and flight, this object was removed, the most violent divisions arose among themselves. The two leading parties in these feuds, which sprung chiefly from a difference in religious opinions, were the Presbyterians and Independents: each party found supporters in the houses of parliament, and the proceedings on both sides were marked with that acrimony which is the least accordant with the true spirit of religion, but, in the end, the Independents prevailed.

These disagreements did not however prevent the citizens from continuing to co-operate in their common cause. In 1646, they advanced the parliament two hundred thousand pounds, at eight per cent. on the security of the excise and the bishops' lands, to enable them to satisfy the claims of the Scotch army; and, on a second demand of the same sum for the service of England and Ireland, they were again prevailed upon to lend it.

Fairfax and Cromwell, having seized the king from the parliamentary commissioners, and the mutinous army advancing towards London, the most serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the city. In consequence of which a petition was presented to the parliament, in March, 1647, praying for the disbanding of the army, and permission to chuse their own committee of militia. In June they presented another petition for peace, and containing assurances of their full determination to adhere to the parliament, with which the army was now at variance.

About the same time a letter signed by Fairfax, Cromwell, and others, was sent to the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council; in which they desire the settlement of the kingdom before the army is disbanded, insisting that being soldiers did not deprive them of their interest, as Englishmen, in the cause for which they had taken up arms, and concluding with a menace if the city should attempt to oppose them by force.

In consequence of this, both houses immediately dispatched letters to the general, desiring that the army might not advance within twenty-five miles of the city: but the next day intelligence arrived of its nearer approach, and that the horse would certainly be at London the day following by noon: on which strong guards were immediately placed round the cities of London and Westminster, borough of Southwark, and places adjacent.

In the mean time, the city, with the approbation of parliament, returned an answer to the above letter by the hands of four aldermen and eight commoners, who were empowered to treat with the general about a right understanding and fair correspondence between the city and army. In which they requested the army not to come within thirty miles of the metropolis, to prevent the increase of the price of victuals, and discontented people raising tumults. That they detested the very thoughts of engaging the kingdom in a new war; but nevertheless had put themselves into a posture of defence against all events; and that they had already recommended their case to the parliament.

The citizens now entered into a friendly correspondence with the army, and became the mediators between them and the parliament. The army required that no forces should be raised in the city, to which the citizens agreed, and promised to move the parliament for their better payment that they might be removed to a greater distance.

The cordiality between the army and the citizens was now so great, that the latter presented a petition to the parliament, complaining of bad management, and prescribing rules for their better conduct in future; and so greatly had the consequence of the parliament declined, that the petitioners received the thanks of both houses, for their affection to the parliament.

While things were in this unsettled state, an engagement was entered into, by the presbyterian party, in the city, to defend the person and authority of the king, the privileges of parliament, and the liberty of the subject; in consequence of which, Fairfax wrote to the parliament, desiring them to suppress such combinations, with which mandate they were forced to comply, and declared, that all who should subscribe it in future would be deemed guilty of high treason. But this was so far from having the desired effect, that the presbyterians became only more outrageous; and, in consequence of two petitions to the lord mayor and common-council, the corporation petitioned the parliament for re-establishing the militia; which was followed by another, from the young men and apprentices of the city, to the same effect. When these latter went with their petition, they were so outrageous, that they pressed into the House of Commons with their hats on, and, keeping open the doors, tumultuously called out, "Vote, vote! agree! dispatch! we'll wait no longer!" exclaiming, incessantly, to have those members who opposed their will, delivered up to them. In this manner they continued for some time, till the house appeased them, by promising that their requests should be complied with.

Many of the members of the two houses of parliament, intimidated by this violence, retired from London, and sought protection from the army. Fairfax took advantage of this circumstance, to advance towards London, under pretence of restoring the members to their seats. In this conjuncture, the want of unanimity was severely felt: at one time, it was determined to defend the city against him, and, in the next moment, it was proposed to enter into terms with him. In the mean time, Fairfax continued his march, and, on his arrival, the citizens withdrew their militia, and delivered up their fortifications, without resistance: the lord mayor and aldermen met the general at Hyde-park, and congratulated him on his arrival; and he was saluted in the same manner by the common-council, who waited for him at Charing-cross. Thus the army became masters both of the city and of parliament.

Soon after the arrival of the army, a loan of fifty thousand pounds was demanded from the city, for their service; which not being complied with, the parliament passed a vote for demolishing the fortifications round London, Westminster, and Southwark.

In this state of affairs, with a divided capital, an insolent army, and an imprisoned sovereign, it cannot be matter of surprise, that confusion and licentiousness should characterize the people. Riots and conspiracies were almost daily occurrences; nor does the history of the times offer any instances of a more agreeable nature. At length, the predominance of the army bore down all opposition: the measures which were in agitation between the parliament and the city, to restore tranquillity, and re-instate the king, were frustrated by the army, who took possession of London and Westminster, on the 4th of December, 1648, demanded forty thousand pounds of the citizens, and, when that sum was not procured so speedily as they expected, the general sent two regiments of foot to take up their quarters in the city, and to secure the treasures in Goldsmith's, Weaver's, and Haberdasher's-halls; from the latter of which they carried off twenty thousand pounds.

The anti-monarchical faction, having thus got the command of the parliament and the city, pulled off the mask. Every member of parliament, who was not of their faction, was excluded; and the citizens, who had been any way concerned in the negotiation for restoring the king, were declared incapable of taking any part in the election of mayor, aldermen, or common-council-men.

Nothing now remained to terminate this eventful scene, but the murder of the king. After a mock-trial, before an illegal tribunal, he was sentenced to suffer death, as a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy. Three days only were allowed between the passing and execution of the sentence; and, on the 30th of January, 1649, Charles perished on the scaffold.

CHAP. XXXIII.

The House of Commons usurp the supreme Power.—-The Citizens and Parliament on good Terms.—Cromwell dismisses the Parliament, and is appointed Protector.-—Hackney Coaches regulated.—-Death of Cromwell.-—Riot.—The City put in a Posture of Defence.—Remonstrance from the Common-council.—General Monk takes Possession of the City.—The Rump Parliament dissolved.—Restoration of the King.—-His public Entry.—-The Irish Estate confirmed to the City.—Charter of Confirmation.—Institution of the Royal Society.—Loans.—Dreadful Plague.—Regulation of Carmen.—Coals provided for supplying the Poor.—-Fire of London.—-Proclamation relative to Re-building.—-Court of Judicature to settle Differences between Landlords and Tenants.—-Act of Parliament to regulate new Buildings.—Orders of Common-council for preventing and extinguishing Fires.-—Provision for the Clergy.—The King accepts the Freedom of the City.—-Negligence in choosing Common-councilmen.—Attempt to burn the City.—Sham Plot.—Solemnity of burning the Pope.

The death of the king was followed by the dissolution of monarchical government. The House of Commons usurped the supreme power, voted the kingly office to be burthensome and unnecessary, and the House of Peers dangerous and useless; and, to prevent the meeting of the lords, they set a guard at the door of that house.

This was followed by an act for the exhæredation of the royal line, and the abolition of monarchy; immediately after the passing of which act, an order was sent to the lord mayor for proclaiming it publicly in the city; but his lordship, refusing obedience, was ordered to attend the house, where, in excuse for his refusal. he pleaded, that, having taken an oath of allegiance, he could not, in conscience, proclaim the abolition of the kingly office; and also stated, that it was not his duty to make the proclamation, but the sheriffs. The house, however, was so little satisfied with his reasons, that they fined him two thousand pounds, committed him to the Tower, and degraded him from the mayoralty.

Cromwell, having been appointed to the lieutenancy of Ireland, the parliament chose a committee to treat with the citizens of London for a loan of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, for the charges of his expenditure; which sum the citizens advanced.

The parliament and citizens being once more on good terms, the former gave Richmond-park to the citizens, and, at the same time, gave them several houses, and a thousand pounds in money, for the use of the poor. In return for these favours, the lord mayor and common-council presented an address of thanks, in which they declared their firm resolution to support the parliament in all emergencies. But a very short time shewed that promises were of little avail in opposition to power. In 1653, Cromwell, having returned victorious from Ireland and Scotland, deprived the parliament of all authority, by turning them out of the house, himself quitting it last, and ordering the doors to be locked. It is true, that the citizens petitioned him, that the parliament might be restored, and the old members reinstated; but, no sooner had he appointed a few of his own creatures to take the government upon themselves, with power to assume the name of Parliament, than they acknowleged their authority, and submitted quietly to the new order of things.

Shortly after this, Cromwell was appointed Protector, and installed at Westminster, with great solemnity. The ceremony was attended by the lord mayor, aldermen, and recorder, in their scarlet gowns; the mayor carrying the city sword before him. A few days after his installation, he was entertained by the corporation at Grocers'-hall, with all the formalities usual at the reception of a crowned head; for which mark of respect he returned thanks to the citizens, and knighted the lord mayor.

In the year 1654, Cromwell, in order to render himself and his government popular, pretending to discover a conspiracy against his life, seemed to place great confidence in the citizens, whom he granted the power of the militia, and to raise forces under the command of their favourite leader, Major-general Skippon; remitted them some impositions and taxes, and permitted the citizens to revive the artillery company, on promise, that only those who were well affected to his highness, should be admitted into that company.

The following year, an ordinance was passed by the protector, to limit the number of hackney-coaches to two hundred, and to place them under the care and government of the lord mayor and court of aldermen. He also gave them a licence to import four thousand chaldrons of coals, annually, for the use of the poor, duty free.

On the 3d of September, 1658, death deprived the protector of his usurped dominion; in consequence of which his eldest son, Richard, was proclaimed, in the city, as his successor, by the privy council, attended by the lord mayor.

Richard Cromwell was by no means qualified to support the power gained by the aspiring talents of his father, and became, in a short time, universally disliked. The citizens, however, continued their attachment to the protectorship, until, worn out with the incessant fluctuations in the mode of government, and the renewed dissensions between the parliament and the army, they wisely refused to take part with either, when they found a rupture was unavoidable.

But this prudence could not be expected to be general: a considerable number of the apprentices assembled, and, being joined by many royalists, demanded a free parliament. In consequence of this commotion, Colonel Hewson marched into the city with a regiment of foot; and, being insulted by the apprentices, he ordered his men to fire, when several of the rioters were killed. This circumstance so inflamed the citizens, that the disaffection became general; and the court of common-council having appointed a committee to give their opinion on this critical juncture, they voted,

"That they conceived the city of London in imminent and extraordinary danger; that they judged it absolutely necessary to put the city forthwith into a posture of defence, that the mayor, aldermen, and common-council, should forthwith settle six regiments of trained-bands, with officers of their own appointment, and their commissions to be sealed in open court, with the common seal of the city; and that commissioners should be appointed to confer with the officers of the army and fleet, in order to the safety of the city, and the peace and settlement of the nation."

This conduct of the citizens was supported by a revolt of part of the army and fleet, who also declared for a free parliament.

This proceeding was followed by a remonstrance from the citizens to the common-council respecting freedom and liberty, in which they acknowledged the above resolutions to be just and prudent, and humbly remonstrated that no power or persons ought to impose any law or tax upon any citizens, with whose general concernment that court was intrusted,

trusted, until such authority was derived from their representatives in parliament.

Great debates arose upon reading this remonstrance, and it was proposed to put it to the vote whether they should prosecute those lawful means which might lead to the attainment of a free parliament; but the lord mayor being averse to the proposition refused to put the question. He, however, transmitted an account of the proceedings to the council of state, who ordered General Monk to march with his army into the city and to reduce it to obedience. Accordingly, several regiments, both of horse and foot, were posted at the city gates and in the streets, and two aldermen and eight common-council-men, who had exerted themselves in favour of a free parliament, were taken into custody. Monk then proceeded to destroy the gates, but finding that the parliament had come to resolutions, which, by joining others with him in the command of the army, threatened his destruction; he consulted his officers, and being assured of their friendship and assistance, resolved to maintain his supreme command, and recover the lost affections of the citizens.

To accomplish this last purpose, he next morning drew up his army in Finsbury Fields, from whence he dispatched a messenger to the lord mayor, declaring his sorrow for what he had done to the prejudice of the city, and earnestly requesting a conference with the lord mayor and common-council.

In consequence of this request, a court of common-council was summoned, at which the general attended, and expressed his concern at having executed a command which gave the citizens so much uneasiness, urging that he was obliged to obey it or give up his commission, which would have prevented his intentions for the good of the city and kingdom, whose happiness and prosperity no man had more at heart than himself. He then produced a copy of a letter sent by him to the parliament at his leaving Whitehall, in which he upbraided them with their unjust proceedings, and commanded them within a certain time to issue out writs for a new parliament, as the only expedient to restore peace and happiness to the kingdom, which both the army and nation expected from them.

The citizens were so well pleased with this open manifestation of the general's sentiments, that they determined to join him; and both parties mutually agreed, at all events, to stand by each other. This new alliance was no sooner made known, than an universal joy spread throughout the city; and the evening was concluded with ringing of bells, illuminations and bonfires. The exultations of the populace were mixed with all the signs of scorn and contempt for the Rump Parliament, that their inventions could produce; and there was hardly a bonfire where a rump of some animal, or the resemblance of one, was not roasted on a gibbet, to celebrate, as they said, the funeral of the parliament.

Next day General Monk returned to his quarters at Whitehall and disposed of his army as he thought most convenient. He then restored the excluded members to their seats in the house of commons, who passed an ordinance to restore the common-council to their ancient rights, to release the imprisoned apprentices, and to replace the city posts, chains, gates, and portcullises. In return, the city chose Monk major-general of their forces, and advanced the parliament sixty thousand pounds.

The citizens, by the advice of their general, disarmed all who were suspected of favouring the rump parliament, and kept a strong guard for the peace and quiet of the city, till the meeting of a free parliament, which was now resolved upon, as well as to restore the monarchy, the royal family and the church. The citizens contributed all in their power to accomplish this great and glorious work; and took every precaution to prevent riot, tumult, or opposition of any kind, within the city.

The new parliament being assembled, and all things ripe for the restoration, Charles sent letters to them and to General Monk. The parliament immediately appointed a committee to prepare an answer, which was forwarded the next day, inviting him to return and take possession of his crown and dominions. With the letters to the parliament the king sent one to the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the city, expressive of his satisfaction with their conduct and good intention to assist in the work of his restoration, and promising to manifest his particular regard for their city, not only by renewing their charter, and confirming all their ancient privileges, but also by adding to them, and granting any new favours which may advance the trade, wealth, and honour, of his native city.

The citizens were so elated on the receipt of this letter, that they presented the messengers with three hundred pounds, and deputed fourteen of the common-council to proceed immediately to Holland, with a present of ten thousand pounds to his majesty, and to assure him of their fidelity and most cheerful submission, and that they placed all their future hopes of prosperity and happiness in the assurance of his royal grace and protection, for the deserving of which their lives and fortunes should be always at his disposal.

Four days after this, the common-council made an order, that Richmond Park, lately given to the city by Cromwell, should be presented to his majesty on his return to England, with assurances that they had kept it with no other view than to preserve it for the royal interest.

The day following his majesty was proclaimed king at the usual places in London, with the greatest solemnity, in the presence of the lord mayor, aldermen, recorder, and sheriffs, amidst the universal and joyful acclamations of the citizens.

In the mean time, the city deputies, being arrived at the Hague, were introduced to his majesty, who, in reply to their message, told them, that he ever had a particular affection for the city of London, the place of his birth; and that he was exceedingly pleased to find them so anxious for his restoration, which he acknowledged, not only by returning them thanks, but likewise conferring on them the honour of knighthood.

His majesty landed at Dover, on the 26th of May, 1660; and, on the 29th he made his public entry into London, where he was received with every testimony of joy. The streets were lined with the trained-bands, and the city companies in their liveries; the houses were adorned with the richest silks and tapestries; and a vast concourse of spectators crowded upon scaffolds, and in windows and balconies; while the lower orders were equally eager to express their satisfaction by tumultuous acclamations and loud huzzas. In short, every thing was conducted with the greatest appearance of unanimity and contentment.

The silk manufacture of London had increased so much, that, the preamble of an act of parliament passed in 1661, for regulating the trade of silk-throwing, states, that the company of silk-throwsters employ above forty thousand men, women, and children.

In the year 1662, the hackney coaches having created an extraordinary charge on the inhabitants of London and Westminster, by destroying the pavements, the parliament enacted, that all hackney coaches, in and about the cities of London and Westminster, should annually pay towards the charge of paving and cleansing the ways and streets in and about the said cities, the sum of five pounds each, and every load of hay sixpence, and straw two-pence. The same act likewise provided for enlarging the passages at Stock's-market, from Fleet-conduit to St. Paul's church, the passage and gateway out of Cheapside into St. Paul's church-yard, the passage at St. Dunstan's church, in Fleet-street, from Cheapside into Bucklersbury, the passage at Temple-bar, and several others in the out-parts; and to pave Petty-France to St. James's house, St. James's-street, Pall-mall, and Hedge-lane.

The first real mark of his majesty's favour towards the city of London, was his confirmation of the Irish estates, in the province of Ulster, to the citizens, of which they had been violently deprived by an arbitrary decree in the Star-chamber during his father's reign. By which tenure the city of London, and the several companies concerned in it, enjoy those estates at this time.

In the following year, his majesty, in return for the late tokens of loyalty shown by the citizens to his person and government, and for their effectual aid in restoring him to his throne; granted them a charter, in which, after reciting all the charters obtained from his predecessors, he ratifies and confirms them in the most ample manner.

This year is also distinguished by the institution of the Royal Society; that name being conferred by the king on a society of learned men, in London, who assembled weekly for the improvement of natural knowledge.

The nation feeling indignant at the ill-treatment of the Dutch in some commercial transactions, a rupture ensued, in 1664, during the recess of parliament; and the king being destitute of supplies for carrying on the war, applied to the citizens of London, who advanced him a loan of one hundred thousand pounds. This, however, not being sufficient, they shortly after advanced the like sum; this ready concurrence was so well received by the parliament, when it assembled, that a vote of thanks was sent to the common-council by a deputation from both houses.

In the year 1665, about the beginning of May, there broke out, in London, the most dreadful plague that ever infested this kingdom, which swept away sixty-eight thousand five hundred and ninety-six persons, which, added to the number of those who died of other distempers, raised the bill of mortality, in this year, to ninety-seven thousand three hundred and six. And the mortality raged so violently in July, that all houses were shut up, the streets deserted, and scarce any thing to be seen therein but grass growing, innumerable fires for purifying the air, coffins, pest-carts, red crosses upon doors, with the inscription, "Lord have mercy upon us!" and continual cries of "pray for us;" or the melancholy call of "bring out your dead." The cause of this dreadful calamity was ascribed to the importation of infected goods from Holland, where the plague had committed great ravages the preceding year. And it was observed, during the whole time of its continuance, that there was such a general calm that for many weeks together not the least wind could be perceived; the fires in the streets were kept burning with difficulty for want of a supply of air, and the very birds panted for breath.

It is probable that the numbers who died of this dreadful pestilence were greatly under-rated in the bills of mortality for that year: one parish, that of St. John the Evangelist, Watling-street, appears from them to have been wholly exempt from it, which is not to be credited when its situation is considered.

The great confusion and terror which this mortality spread throughout the city, did not, however, take off the attention of the magistates from redressing the complaints of the citizens. On the first of June, 1665, the court of common-council passed an act for the better regulation of carmen, and to redress abuses in the retail trade of coals in the city; the principal heads of which were these:

The number of carts was restricted to four hundred and twenty, and they were placed under the regulation of the president and governors of Christ's Hospital. The prices of carriage were to be limited yearly by the court of aldermen. And all coal-sacks and measures were to be sealed at Guildhall.

That the poor might be constantly supplied with coals in times of scarcity, and to defeat the combination of dealers in that article, the several city companies undermentioned were ordered to purchase and lay up yearly, between Lady-day and Michaelmas, the following quantities of coals; which were to be vended in such manner, and at such prices, as the lord mayor and court of aldermen should, by written precept, direct; so that the coals should not be sold to loss.

	Chald.		Chald.
Mercers - -	488	Drapers - -	562
Grocers - -	675	Fishmongers - -	465

Goldsmiths

	Chald.
Goldsmiths	525
Skinners	315
Merchant-taylors	750
Haberdashers	578
Salters	360
Ironmongers	255
Vintners	375
Clothworkers	412
Dyers	105
Brewers	104
Leathersellers	210
Pewterers	52
Cutlers	75
Whitebakers	45
Wax-chandlers	19
Tallow-chandlers	97
Armourers	19
Girdlers	105
Butchers	22
Sadlers	90
Carpenters	38
Cordwainers	60
Barber-surgeons	60
Painter-stainers	12
Curriers	11
Masons	22
Plumbers	19
Innholders	45
Founders	7
Poulterers	12
Cooks	30
Coopers	52
Tylers and bricklayers	19
Bowyers	3
Fletchers	3
Blacksmiths	15
Apothecaries	45
Joiners	22
Weavers	27
Woolmen	3
Woolmongers	60
Scriveners	60
Fruiterers	7
Plaisterers	8
Brown-bakers	12
Stationers	75
Embroiderers	30
Upholders	9
Musicians	6
Turners	13
Basket-makers	6
Glaziers	6

By the same act all retail dealers in coals were prohibited from meeting the vessels, or by their agents contracting for coals, before the ships were arrived in the port of London; on the penalty of five shillings for every chaldron of coals so forestalled, or bought by pre-contract.

The most extensive and dreadful conflagration that ever afflicted the city of London, broke out about one o'clock in the morning of the 2d of September, 1666, in Pudding-lane; and there not being either a sufficient aid of engines, or of water, the flames, fomented by a violent easterly wind, soon got the better of those weak efforts made use of to put it out, and, in about thirty hours, they spread to Gracechurch-street, towards the north-west, and to the Three Cranes, in the Vintry, towards the south-west, including Cannon-street, and the lanes, alleys, and courts in the way; and, either by communication of the flakes, from such a vast body of fire kindled by old timber houses, or by any of the other means which have been suspected, the flames burst out in divers and distant places; and the conflagration became so general, that there was not a building left standing, from the west end of Tower-wharf, in the east, to the Temple-church, in the west; nor from the north-end of Mincing-lane, in Fenchurch-street, from the west end of Leadenhall-street, and from the south-west end of Bishopsgate-street, as far as the entrance into Threadneedle-street, to Holborn-bridge, on the west, in a direct line; besides the damage done in Throgmorton-street, Lothbury, Coleman-street, Basinghall-street, Cateaton-street, Aldermanbury, Addle-street, Love-lane, Wood-street, Staining-lane, Noble-street, and Silver-street: at length, it stopped at Pye-corner, near West Smithfield.

By this horrid conflagration, many thousand citizens were compelled to retire to the fields, destitute of all necessaries, and exposed to the inclemency of the weather, till a sufficient number of huts could be erected for their relief: his majesty immediately ordered a great quantity of naval bread to be distributed among them, and gave orders for the encouragement of the bringing of all sorts of provisions for their use.

This dreadful and destructive fire laid waste and consumed the buildings on four hundred and thirty-six acres of ground, four hundred streets, lanes, &c. thirteen thousand two hundred houses, the cathedral church of St. Paul, eighty-six parish churches, six chapels, the magnificent buildings of Guildhall, the Royal Exchange. Custom-house, and Blackwell-hall, many hospitals and libraries, fifty-two of the companies' halls, and a great number of other stately edifices; together with three of the city gates, four stone bridges, and the prisons of Newgate, the Fleet, the Poultry and Wood-street Compters; the loss of which, by the best calculation, amounted to ten millions seven hundred and thirty thousand and five hundred pounds. And, notwithstanding all this destruction, only six persons lost their lives.

The irregularity of the buildings, the dark, ill-contrived, wooden houses, and the narrow, crooked, and incommodious streets of the city, had always been a subject of complaint. The extent of the conflagration now put it in the power of authority to rebuild London with greater uniformity and security, and such was the immediate attention of the court on this occasion, that his majesty issued a proclamation, while the ruins were yet smoking, to prohibit the rebuilding of houses, till public care might be taken for its re-edification with greater magnificence and uniformity than before, and with such materials, as might most effectually prevent such another occurrence.

The parliament assembled with all speed, and, on the 18th of September, passed an act for erecting a court of judicature, for settling all differences between landlords and tenants, respecting houses burned down and demolished by the late fire; and appointed the justices of the courts of King's-bench and Common-pleas, and the barons of the Exchequer, to be judges of the said court; who conducted themselves with such admirable impartiality and strict justice, that they gave universal content; and, in token of the general esteem of the citizens, their portraits were ordered to be hung up in Guildhall.

Soon after this, an act of parliament was passed for rebuilding the city, which laid down rules and directions for all the persons concerned therein.

In pursuance of the royal proclamation, mentioned above, the common-council, on the 29th of April, 1667, passed an act, by which they declared what streets and passages, within the city and liberties, should be enlarged and widened, and in what proportion; which was so well approved of, that he confirmed and enforced it by an order of council, on the 8th of May.

On the 15th of November, the common-council passed another act for preventing and suppressing fires, by which it was ordered, that the city should be divided into four quarters; each to be provided with the number of ladders, buckets, pick-axes, and shovels, directed: each of the city companies was also to provide a prescribed number of the same articles, with other precautionary measures, for the prevention and extinguishing of fires, within their jurisdiction.

By an act of parliament, passed in 1670, it was enacted, that, besides the streets already appointed to be widened, those of Paternoster-row, Warwick-lane, Watling-street, Candlewick-street, Eastcheap, Swithin's-lane, Little Wood-street, Milk-street, Tower-street, Water-lane, in Tower-street, Rood-lane, St. Mary-hill, Thames-street, from London-bridge to Puddle-dock, Pye-corner, and Threadneedle-street, should also be enlarged; that the sum of two shillings a chaldron be added to the one shilling a chaldron, already granted upon coals, to the lord mayor and citizens of London, for the term of seventeen years and five months, for the effectual accomplishment of the said works; and that the sole power of regulating, keeping clean, pitching, and paving the streets of the city of London, and of making and clearing drains and sewers in London, shall remain in the mayor, commonalty, and citizens, to be executed by such as the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty, shall appoint; and that the mayor, &c. may impose a tax upon houses for the doing thereof.

By virtue of these powers, the court of common-council on the 27th of October, 1671, collected into an act, the several customs, rules, and orders, relating to paving and cleansing the streets, and preventing nuisances in the passages within their jurisdiction: which act was published, by the commissioners of sewers, the 1st of March following, for general information.

In the following year, an act of parliament was passed, for providing the London clergy with proper stipends, in lieu of tythes, which had always been unequally levied, and now, in consequence of the alterations occasioned by the fire, and the union of the parishes, were unequal to the maintenance of the incumbents.

On the 29th of October, 1675, when Sir Robert Viner entered into his mayoralty, his majesty honoured the corporation with his company at Guildhall, and accepted the freedom of the city, in the chamberlain's office, from the hands of Sir Thomas Player, then chamberlain. The lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to show their sense of this instance of condescension, on the 18th of December following, waited on his majesty, at the Banquetting-house, Whitehall, and presented him with a copy of his freedom, in a large square box of massy gold, with a seal inclosed in another box of the same metal, beautifully enriched with diamonds of immense value.

In the year 1676, great part of the Borough of Southwark was destroyed by fire; soon after which, commissioners were appointed, by act of parliament, to rebuild it, regularly and substantially, with brick, as it appears at this time, commencing at a small distance from the foot of London-bridge, and reaching some way beyond St. Margaret's-hill.

The citizens of London appear to have been very negligent, about this time, in the choice of members to represent them in common-council; for, on the 12th of December, in this year, the lord mayor and aldermen made an order, that the precepts for holding wardmotes, for the election of common-councilmen, should require, that no person be chosen who had been convicted of defrauding in weights or measures, or such like crimes; nor any person who had compounded, through inability to pay his debts.

London was rising with a splendor unknown to it before the fire, when, in the beginning of May, 1679, an alarm was spread of a design being on foot to burn it a second time. One Elizabeth Oxley, a servant in Fetter-lane, having set fire to her master's house, was apprehended and committed to prison; when she confessed the fact, and declared, that she had been hired to do it, by one Stubbs, a papist, who was to give her five pounds as a reward. Stubbs, being immediately secured, confessed that he had persuaded her to it; but that he himself had been prevailed on by one Father Gifford, his confessor, who, he said, assured him, that, instead of its being a sin, it would be a great service to the church, to burn and destroy all the houses of heretics; saying, that he had conversed many times on that affair, with Gifford and two Irishmen. And the maid and Stubbs jointly declared, that the papists intended to rise in London, in expectation of being assisted by a powerful army from France. Soon after this, a prosecution being commenced against several of the jesuits, who were concerned in the plot, five of them were convicted and executed; and several lords being also impeached of the same, were committed prisoners to the Tower. A few days after, a proclamation was issued, for banishing all papists from the city of London, and within ten miles of the same.

In a very short time, a sham plot was discovered, contrived by the papists, to be revenged on their persecutors, and to transmit the odium from themselves to the presbyterians; but they were betrayed by Dangerfield, the chief actor in the farce, who, finding himself detected, applied to the lord mayor, made an ample confession of the whole iniquitous scheme, and discovered his employers.

The detection of this contrivance so irritated the populace against the papists, that it added much to the solemnity of burning the pope; for, on the 17th of November, the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, the ceremony was performed with the most singular pomp and magnificence, and every mark shown by the citizens, that could demonstrate their abhorrence to popery.

The procession began by a person on a horse, representing Sir Edmundbury Godfrey (who was murdered by the papists, for being too active in discovering their late infamous machinations), attended by a bellman, proclaiming his murder; then followed bishops, in mitres and lawn sleeves; priests, in copes, with a large silver cross; carmelites, grey friars, and jesuits;

jesuits: after these appeared six cardinals, who preceded the pope, enthroned in a stately pageant, attended by a great number of boys, with pots of incense, and the devil whispering in his ear. In this manner the cavalcade marched from Bishopsgate to Fleet-street, where his holiness was committed to the flames, in the presence of a great number of spectators assembled on the occasion.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Discontent of the Citizens.—-Election of Sheriffs.—-Old Members returned to Parliament.—-The Lord Mayor claims a Right to nominate one Sheriff.—-Tumultuous Election in consequence.—-Interference of the Ministry.—-The City Charter seized.—-Submission of the Citizens.—-Origin of the Penny Post.—-Influx of foreign Artizans.—Death of Charles II.—Trial and Execution of Alderman Cornish.—-The City Charter restored.—-Abdication of James II.—-Mass-houses destroyed.—-Murder of Chancellor Jefferies.

The frequent prorogations of the parliament now began to raise an universal discontent, which was considerably increased by an opinion, that this and other unpopular measures were produced by the influence of the Duke of York, in the cabinet. He was known to be a rigid papist; and, as one of the businesses most eagerly pursued by the parliament, during its sittings, was an inquiry into the popish plot, he was suspected of exerting his power, to prevent those concerned in it from being brought to justice. The uneasiness of the people was manifested by numerous and repeated petitions to the throne; and the sense of the citizens of London, on this subject, was so strongly expressed in a petition presented to the king from them, as to give great offence to his majesty, whose answer purported, that "he looked upon himself to be the head of the government, and the only judge what was proper to be done in these cases."

The citizens were resolute to their purpose; and, accordingly, on Midsummer-day, Bethel and Cornish, two men on whom they could depend, were nominated for sheriffs, and, on a show of hands, elected by a considerable majority; but a poll being demanded, in favour of the court candidates, a tumult ensued, which was represented by the mayor, and other supporters of the Duke of York, as a riot; and the king issued a commission, on the same evening, for the trial of the rioters.

But, far from being over-awed by this exertion of authority, they persevered, with more ardour than before, in their opposition to papacy; and having, on the dissolution of parliament, which took place shortly after, re-elected their former representatives, in despite of every artifice made use of to procure the return of members devoted to the ministry, they gave them a paper of instructions, in the name of the citizens, in common-hall assembled; in which, after thanking them for their unwearied endeavours in furthering their views during the two last parliaments, and more especially for promoting the bill for the exclusion of the Duke of York; they conclude, by expressing their confident assurance, "that the said members will never consent to granting any money supply, till they have effectually secured them against popery and arbitrary power."

From the sudden dissolution of parliament, the bill of exclusion, the darling object of the citizens, was lost; yet they chose every opportunity of showing their dislike to their future sovereign. An instance of this occurred shortly after, on occasion of an entertainment given, at Merchant Taylor's-hall, by the artillery company, to him, as their captain-general. To lessen the gratification the duke might derive from this public mark of distinction, as much as was in their power, the anti-courtiers fixed on the same day for a public dinner, at Haberdasher's-hall, to be preceded by a sermon; the invitation to which run in the following form. "It having pleased Almighty God, by his wonderful providence, to deliver and protect his majesty's person, the protestant religion, and English liberties, hitherto, from the hellish and frequent attempts of their enemies, the papists; in testimony of thankfulness herein, and for preserving and improving mutual love and charity among such as are sensible thereof, you are desired to meet many of the loyal protestant nobility, clergy, and citizens, on Friday, the 21st instant April, 1682, at ten of the clock, at St. Michael's church, in Cornhill; there to hear a sermon, and from thence to go to Haberdasher's-hall, to dinner, and to bring this ticket with you."

This scheme gave great offence to the court, it being represented to them as a matter of very dangerous tendency; to prevent which, an order of council was made, on the 19th of the same month, strictly charging the lord mayor and aldermen, as they should answer the contrary at their peril, "to take immediate and effectual care to prevent and hinder the said meeting, as an unlawful assembly."

Party dissensions now ran very high, and each side used their utmost efforts to secure the sheriffs of London and Middlesex in their interest. The lord mayor, who was on the court side, insisted on his right of nominating one, by drinking to him; a ceremony, by which it was understood, that the person so drank to was put in nomination, subject to the election of the common-hall. But, depending on the strength of the lord mayor's right to appoint, North, the person drank to, attended the court of aldermen some time before the day of election, and entered into bond to serve the office; and the lord mayor issued his precept for holding the court on Midsummer-day, for confirming the appointment of North, and electing the other sheriff. This new form of the precept occasioned much confusion among the companies; some summoning their members to meet and choose sheriffs, &c. as formerly; some for confirmation and election; and some for choosing city officers generally. On the day previous to the election, the opinion of the recorder being taken in the court of aldermen on the right of election, he declared, that it was vested in the commonalty, and that the sheriffs were judges of the poll, if there was one; in which opinion the court unanimously concurred. But, on Midsummer-day, the common crier, by direction of their mayor, proclaiming, "You gentlemen of the livery, attend your confirmation," the hall resounded with, "No confirmation!" After a long and violent dispute, the mayor and aldermen retired, and left the livery at liberty to proceed to the election; when Papillion and Dubois had a considerable majority on the show of hands; but a poll was demanded and granted. At seven o'clock in the evening, the mayor returned and made an attempt to adjourn the court; but the sheriffs continued to take the poll till nine o'clock, when they adjourned it.

The lord mayor, disliking the proceedings of the sheriffs, made complaint to the king and council, of his having been grossly insulted; in consequence of which, the mayor, with the aldermen and sheriffs, were ordered to attend the privy council on the Monday following; when, being severally examined concerning the disturbance, the two sheriffs, Pilkington and Shute, with Alderman Cornish, were committed prisoners to the Tower; and, at the same time, orders were given to the attorney-general, to prosecute, with the utmost severity, all who should be found to have been promoters and encouragers of the late tumult.

On the ensuing Friday, the prisoners were, by a writ of Habeas Corpus, admitted to bail; and on the 1st of July, they called a common-hall; where, in defiance of the lord mayor's order to the recorder to adjourn the hall to the 7th, they proceeded in the poll, and declared Papillion and Dubois duly elected.

This so irritated the lord mayor that he and his party met at Guildhall, on the 14th, when his lordship produced an order of council to begin all the proceedings anew. This order was vigorously opposed by many of the most eminent citizens, as an innovation of their rights and privileges; the mayor, however, declared North duly elected by him, without the sanction of the common-hall, and proceeded to poll for the other: but, as none of those who had voted for Papillion and Dubois at the former election would vote at this, to give it a sanction, Box, another candidate, put up by the court, was elected without opposition. Box, however, finding his election could not be legally justified, declined serving the office; on which Mr. Peter Birch was chosen, and, with North, sworn in before the lord mayor; while Papillion and Dubois were left to seek their remedy at law.

These arbitrary proceedings sufficiently evinced the determination of the court to carry their point by any means; and the citizens being equally resolute in supporting their privileges, a more decisive blow was meditated, by which the king would become master, not only of the city of London, but also of every corporation. Accordingly, in Michaelmas term, a writ of *Quo Warranto* was issued against the city, to try the validity of its charter; in which it was asserted that the liberties and privileges of the city were usurped.

Notwithstanding all the arguments used by the citizens to support their conduct, and resist this infringement on their dear-bought liberties and privileges, yet the ministry were determined, at all events, to crush them. Accordingly, in Trinity term, 1683, the *Quo Warranto* being argued and determined, Justice Jones pronounced the following sentence;

"That a city might forfeit its charter; that the malversations of the common-council were acts of the whole city; and that the points set forth in the pleadings, were just grounds for the forfeiting of a charter. Upon which premises the conclusion seemed to be, that, therefore, the city of London had forfeited its charter."

Although it was determined that the king might seize the liberties of the city, yet, contrary to what is usual in such cases, the attorney-general was ordered to move, that the judgment might not be recorded.

These unjust and arbitrary proceedings greatly alarmed the citizens: a court of common-council was summoned to deliberate on what measures were to be resorted to, in which the court party prevailed so far as to procure an act of submission, which amounted to a voluntary surrender of the city liberties, since it deprived them of the means of having the judgment reversed. The lord mayor, with a deputation from the court, attended the king at Windsor, on the 18th of June, to acknowledge their misgovernment, solicit pardon, and beg for his majesty's commands and directions. Conditions were then proposed to them by the lord keeper, and they were told that immediate compliance with them was the only way to stop entering up the judgment of the court, but that on their submission, this measure should be abandoned. In the common-council called to receive the report of this deputation, the question for submission was carried by a majority of eighteen: but, after the king had thus compelled the citizens to submit to terms of his own proposing, on pretence that they had not tendered him a formal submission, he ordered the judgment upon the *Quo Warranto* to be entered up.

This was no sooner done, than, by a commission under the great seal, the office of mayor was granted to Sir William Pritchard, the present lord mayor, and the office of sheriffs to Peter Daniel and Samuel Dashwood, during his majesty's pleasure. At the same time, Sir George Treby, the recorder, was removed in favour of Thomas Jerner, who was knighted on the occasion. Eight of the aldermen in the country or whig interest, were degraded, and the remaining sixteen made justices of the peace. Soon after eight new aldermen were appointed; and, on the 20th of October, the king, in virtue of his assumed power, constituted Sir Henry Tulse (one of the informers against Alderman Pilkington) lord mayor during his pleasure.

It was in or about the year 1683 that the useful conveyance of letters and parcels by the *penny post* was first set up in London and its suburbs, by a private undertaker, named Murray, an upholsterer by trade, who afterwards assigned the same to one Dockwra, who carried it on successfully for a number of years, until the government laid claim to the project, as being connected with the general post-office, which was a part of the crown revenue, and a yearly pension of two hundred pounds was settled on Mr. Dockwra for his life.

In 1685, the manufactures and population of London received a considerable increase in the refugees who fled from France in consequence of the revocation of the edict of Nantes. The number of industrious artizans thus forced from their homes is stated to have amounted to eight hundred thousand, a great proportion of whom settled in the suburbs of London, particularly about Spitalfields, Soho, and St.

Giles's, where their descendants still reside. To them London is indebted for either a knowledge of, or improvements in, the manufactures of silks, linen, paper, glass, hats, watches, cutlery, toys, &c. many of which are now brought to a state of unrivalled perfection.

The death of Charles, which took place on the 6th of February, 1685, did not put an end to the arbitrary measures of the latter part of his reign. James II. had long governed in the king's name, and it was with a view to the introduction of popery that he had devised the plan of seizing the charters of corporate bodies, which he dreaded as the most effectual bars to his designs; so that the Londoners were placed in a worse situation, by his accession, than they had been in before. Alderman Cornish, who, when sheriff, in 1680, had exerted himself to detect the popish plot, was singled out as a sacrifice to the king's resentment. On the 13th of October, 1685, he was apprehended and committed to Newgate, without the use of pen, ink, or paper; and, on the Saturday after, received notice that an indictment for high-treason was prepared against him, on which he was to be tried on the following Monday. It was in vain he applied for time to prepare for his defence; he was answered by the attorney-general that he had not deserved so well of the government. He was tried on the appointed day, and although the two evidences produced against him could not prove any fact to affect him, he was condemned, and, on the 23d of the same month, hanged, drawn, and quartered, facing his own house, at the end of King-street, Cheapside.

Long before James's accession to the throne, he had lost the affections of the people of every rank and station, and his subsequent conduct was so preposterous that it hastened a revolution which prudence might have delayed, or perhaps prevented. When, at length, he found the increasing discontents had arisen to such a height, as to threaten the loss of his crown, he attempted conciliatory measures; but it was too late. Among other symptoms of his ill-timed repentance, he, on the 6th of October, 1688, restored the city charter, by the hands of his chancellor Jefferies; in consequence of which, the custos, Sir John Chapman, was constituted mayor, until the ensuing feast of St. Simon and St. Jude; and the sheriffs were continued till the next day of election. A court of common-council was held on the following day, though it was Sunday, at which an order was made for restoring the livery-men of the several companies, that were on the livery at the time when judgment was given against the city; which order was immediately entered on the books of each company.

The Prince of Orange landed at Torbay, on the 5th of November; and James left London, with an intention of marching against him with his army; but the defection became so general, that he speedily returned to the capital; where, agitated every moment with fresh proofs of the universal discontent, and not daring to repose confidence in any one, he precipitately embraced the resolution of withdrawing to France.

As soon as the king's flight was known, the lords spiritual and temporal met at Guildhall, and signed and published their declaration, to apply to the Prince of Orange, and to assist his highness to obtain a free parliament, and to be ready to do all other matters that should tend to the public good. This was followed, the same day, by an address from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council; and by another from the lieutenancy of the city of

London to the Prince of Orange; in which they expressed similar sentiments.

Though the greatest precautions were used, it was impossible such an event should pass without some acts of violence. The populace, considering the papists as the authors of their late misfortunes and present distractions, plundered and burnt the mass-houses, lately elected in the metropolis and its suburbs; and also attacked and plundered the houses of the Spanish and Tuscan ambassadors, where some of the most wealthy papists had deposited their valuable effects for safety. The losses of the ambassadors, were, however, made good by the next parliament.

Jefferies, the chancellor, being discovered about the same time, concealed in a sailor's dress, at Wapping, was seized by the mob, and treated with such severity, that he died shortly after of his bruises.

CHAP. XXXV.

Convention for settling the Government.—-Loan.—-Petition in the Name of the Citizens.—-William and Mary proclaimed.—-Intercepted Letters communicated to the Citizens.—Act of Parliament to confirm the City's Privileges.—-Preparations against Invasion.—-City Elections regulated.—Act for re-paying the Debt to the Orphan's Fund.—-Institution of the Bank.—-Award relative to the Markets.—-Privileged Places suppressed.—Public Entry of the King.—-Opening of Billingsgate-Market.—-Address of the Corporation of London.—Death of William III.—Dreadful Storm.—City Watch regulated.—-French Standards put up in Westminster-Hall.—-Act for preventing Fires.—-The Palatines.—Trial of Dr. Sacheverel.—Riots.—-Fifty new Churches ordered to be built.—Foreigners restricted.—Stagnation of Commerce.—Proclamation for apprehending the Pretender.—-Committee to inquire into Abuses in the Office of Coal-Meter.

When the Prince of Orange was thoroughly satisfied that James had left the kingdom, he published an order for the immediate assembling of all who had been members of any of the parliaments held in the reign of Charles II. with the lord mayor and court of aldermen, and a deputation of fifty of the common-council, to consult on the settlement of the government.

Having re-assembled the forces, which, on the abdication of James, had been disbanded, the Prince of Orange found himself in want of money to pay them: he therefore applied to the lord mayor and common-council, for a loan of two hundred thousand pounds; and the citizens cheerfully voted the money, which was raised in a short time.

While the convention was sitting, some over-zealous partizans of the House of Orange, handed about a petition to that body, for signatures, purporting to be the act of the citizens of London, and praying for the speedy settlement of the throne on the prince and his consort. But his highness discountenanced this premature proceeding, and desired the lord mayor to put a stop to it; who immediately issued an order to the aldermen, to prevent any assembly in their respective wards under such pretence. At length, the convention having first resolved that James had abdicated the government, and that the throne was vacant, a declaration of rights was prepared, in which all the points formerly disputed, between the king and his people, were finally determined, which concluded with resolving, that William and Mary should be declared King and Queen of England, France, and Ireland: which declaration being accepted by their highnesses, they were proclaimed, on the 13th of February, 1689, with the usual ceremonies, and, on the 11th of April following, were solemnly crowned at Westminster.

The king's confidence in the loyalty of the citizens was so great, that, letters from James to some of his adherents being intercepted, at the same time that he laid them before the parliament, he ordered their contents to be made known to the citizens; who were highly gratified at this mark of attention, and returned him an address of thanks, with assurances of their zeal in support of his person and government.

In the ensuing parliament, which met on the 20th of March, 1690, the citizens of London received a fresh assurance of his majesty's great regard to the rights of the corporation, by his signing an act, declaring the proceedings of the former reigns, on the *Quo Warranto*, illegal and arbitrary. Every judgment given and recorded, for seizing the franchises of the city, were, by this act, reversed and made void. The mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, were declared to remain for ever a body corporate and politic. They were to have and enjoy all their rights and charters; and all charters, letters patent, &c. concerning any of the liberties, lands, and tenements, rights, titles, &c. made subsequent to the said judgment, were thereby declared void.

Advice having been received, that the French had defeated the Dutch in the British channel, it was apprehended that the enemy would attempt an invasion: to defeat which, the patriotic citizens (in the absence of the king, who was then at the head of his army in Ireland) immediately raised nine thousand trained-bands, and offered them to her majesty, ready to march wherever she should command.

On the 10th of September following, his majesty, after a successful campaign in Ireland, and driving King James from thence, arrived safe at Kensington; and the next day he was attended by the lord mayor, aldermen, and recorder, who, in the name of the city, congratulated his majesty on his happy success and safe return.

To prevent the recurrence of many disagreeable controversies in the nomination of aldermen, and the election of common-council-men, an act of common-council was made, in 1691, by which it was enacted, that none but freemen, being house-holders, paying scot, and bearing lot, should be entitled to vote on such occasions.

The city, being indebted to their orphans' fund, in the sum of seven hundred and forty-seven thousand five hundred pounds, occasioned by various accidents and public calamities, applied to parliament for relief, in 1694: and obtained an act, by which a fund was established for the re-payment of the debt. This act, however, was procured by bribing some of the leading members of the House of Commons: among other sums distributed on this account, Sir John Trevor, the speaker, received a thousand guineas; which being discovered, he was, in the next session, expelled the house for corruption and breach of trust; as was another, who had received twenty guineas for the same purpose.

This year is distinguished, in the annals of London, by the institution of the Bank of England; a full account of which will be given in the second book of this history.

On the 28th of December, in this year, Queen Mary died of the small-pox; on which melancholy occasion, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented a warm address of cóndolence to his majesty.

Complaint having been made to the lord mayor and common-council against the farmers, for extorting large sums of money from the market-people, a committee was appointed to inquire into that complaint; who, on the 29th of July, 1696, reported, that the farmers of Leadenhall, Stocks, Honey-lane, and Newgate-markets, had extorted an annual rent of ten thousand eight hundred and ninety-six pounds nine shillings and ten pence, for stalls; as also two thousand one hundred and ninety-four pounds one shilling and six pence, in fines, from the present tenants. By these arbitrary proceedings, the committee were of opinion, that the farmers had forfeited the leases granted them, in converting the markets to other uses than what were intended or mentioned in their covenants. This report occasioning divers suits to be commenced against the said farmers, the court of King's-bench referred the cause to the arbitration of Sir Nathan Wright and Sir Bartholomew

Shower, serjeants at law; who awarded, that the said farmers should refund the several sums of money, unjustly extorted; and that, for the future, they should strictly abide by the articles of their covenants.

Several places, in and about the city of London, which, in times of popery, had been allowed to criminals as sanctuaries, and continued as places of protection, after the Reformation, were now become notorious receptacles for lawless debtors, who took refuge in them, and set justice and public authority at defiance. To remove this evil, an act of parliament was passed in this year, to suppress these places of pretended privilege.

In the year 1697, King William being returned from Holland, after the conclusion of the treaty of Ryswick, he was earnestly requested, by the lord mayor and citizens, to make his public entry into the city. In compliance with which, on the 16th of November, his majesty set out from Greenwich, attended by his Royal Highness the Prince of Denmark, the principal officers of state, and a great number of the nobility and gentry. His majesty was received at St. Margaret's-hill, in Southwark, by the lord mayor, aldermen, &c. in their formalities, on horseback; who, after congratulating him on the joyful occasion, conducted him through the city to Whitehall, amidst the acclamations of a prodigious concourse of spectators. The procession was solemn, and the city was embellished with the most pompous decorations.

Billingsgate was opened on the 10th of May, 1698, by virtue of an act of parliament, as a free market for the sale of fish, six days in a week; with permission to sell mackarel on Sundays, before and after divine service.

On the 6th of September, 1701, King James II. died in France, and the French king caused the pretended Prince of Wales to be proclaimed King of England, Scotland, and Ireland, notwithstanding his late peace with King William. This transaction was so highly resented by the city of London, that a very spirited address from the corporation was presented to the lords-justices in the absence of the king, expressive of their attachment to him, and firm determination to support his rights.

On the 21st of February, 1702, his majesty riding from Kensington to Hampton-court, his horse fell under him, and he was thrown with such violence as produced a fracture in his collar-bone; soon after which he was seized with a violent fever and diarrhæa, which terminated in his death, on the 8th of March following. In consequence of which the Princess Anne, daughter to the late King James, succeeded to the crown, to the universal joy and satisfaction of the nation.

The great successes obtained over the French in the preceding campaign occasioned the queen to appoint the 12th of November for a public thanksgiving; on which day her majesty went in grand procession to St. Paul's cathedral, whither she was attended by both houses of parliament; and the citizens exerted their utmost abilities to render that day more pompous and brilliant than had ever been done on any other occasion.

On the 16th of November, 1703, there happened the most dreadful storm of wind that had ever been known in the memory of man. It began about ten o'clock at night, and continued to rage with the greatest violence till about seven in the morning, when it gradually abated. During the course of the night the people were under the most dreadful apprehensions, fearful of being killed by the ruins of their habitations. About eight in the morning the wind was sufficiently moderate to admit them to look out at their doors, when the destruction that had been made, struck every beholder, whose first consideration was to inquire after their friends and relations; and the next day afforded sufficient employment in viewing the universal havock all over the city and suburbs. Upwards of two thousand stacks of chimneys were blown down in and about London; the streets were covered with tiles and slates from the roofs of houses; the lead on the tops of several churches was rolled up like skins of parchment; and at Westminster-abbey, Christ's-hospital, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and many other places, it was carried off from the buildings. The roof of the guard-room at Whitehall was carried entirely away, and the great weathercock blown down. Two new built turrets on the church of St. Mary, Aldermary, one of the spires of St. Saviour's, Southwark, and the four pinnacles at St. Michael's, Crooked-lane, were entirely blown down; the vanes and spindles of weathercocks in many other places were bent; several houses near Moorfields were levelled to the ground; as were about twenty other whole houses in the out-parts, with a great number of brick walls, and the gable ends of houses out of number. Twenty-one persons were killed by the fall of the buildings, and about two hundred greatly maimed in the ruins, besides those drowned in the river. The loss sustained by the city of London alone, was estimated at two millions. The damage at sea, however, far exceeded that by land; for, in that dreadful night, twelve men of war were lost, and upwards of eighteen hundred men perished: besides the loss of a great number of merchant-ships, computed at a much greater value. All the ships in the river, four excepted, were driven from their moorings, and thrown on shore, between Shadwell and Limehouse, in the greatest confusion. Upwards of five hundred wherries were entirely dashed to pieces; above sixty barges were found driven foul of London-bridge; and as many more sunk or staved between that and Hammersmith. In short, the prospect on the river afforded a sight equally dismal with that on the land.

An act of common-council was passed in 1704, for regulating the nightly watch of the city, by which it was ordained, that a number of strong able-bodied men should be provided by each ward; and also that the deputy and common-council of every ward, should have power to oblige every person occupying any house, shop, or warehouse, either to watch in person, or to pay for an able-bodied man, to be appointed thereto by the said deputy and common-council-men; the said watchmen to be provided with a lantern and candle, and well and sufficiently armed with halberts; and to watch from nine in the evening till seven in the morning, from Michaelmas to the 1st of April; and from ten till five from the 1st of April to Michaelmas. The total number of watchmen appointed by this act, was five hundred and eighty-three.

The several standards and colours taken by the British troops at the battle of Blenheim, where, by the queen's order, put up in Westminster-hall, on the 3d of January, 1705. They were brought from the Tower, and escorted through the city by detachments from the grenadier and horse-guards, and a battalion of foot-guards; and amounted in the whole to thirty-four standards and one hundred and twenty-eight colours.

In consequence of the many dreadful fires which happened in London, in 1707, principally occasioned by the carelessness of servants, an act of parliament was passed for preventing such fatal accidents in future, by which the church-wardens of each parish within the bills of mortality were empowered to fix Firecocks on the main water-pipes in the street, and to provide a large and a small hand-engine, at the expense of their respective parishes; and it was also enacted, that party-walls should be entirely of brick or stone.

The protestants of the Palatinate, in Germany, being stripped of all the conveniences of life, by the French armies, that invaded and plundered their country, near twelve thousand of those distressed people found their way to England, and arrived in the month of June, 1708, in the neighbourhood of London: where they were subsisted by her majesty's benevolence at first, then by the private charity of the nobility, &c. and, at last, the sum of twenty-two thousand and thirty-eight pounds was collected for them, upon a brief issued for that purpose to all parts of the kingdom. With this relief three thousand and upwards of them were sent to Ireland; six hundred to each of the Carolinas, in North America; and three thousand five hundred were transported to New York, where, by their industry, they cultivated such large tracts of unimproved land, as was afterwards very beneficial to this nation.

This year the fiery zeal of contending parties broke out into a most violent flame at the prosecution of Doctor Henry Sacheverel, chaplain of St. Saviour's, Southwark, before the house of lords, on an impeachment of high crimes and misdemeanors by the commons, for preaching two sermons. The populace were persuaded by the tories, that, instead of the doctor's ruin, that of the church was intended; and believing the same to be a contrivance of the presbyterians, breathed destruction to them and all other dissenters. Thus spirited up, they attacked the meeting-house meeting-house of Mr. Burgess, a presbyterian minister, in New-court, Little Lincoln's-inn-fields, and breaking it open, stripped it of its doors, casements, sconces, wainscot, pews, and pulpit, which they carried into Lincoln's-inn-fields; and while they were erecting the same into a pile, a party was sent to surprise Burgess at his house, in order to have burnt him in his pulpit on the top of the same: but he luckily avoided their fury by escaping out at a back window. After this, they divided into different parties, and destroyed the meeting-houses in St. John's-square, New-street, Drury-lane, and Leather-lane. But before next morning this dangerous tumult was suppressed by her majesty's guards, sent for that purpose. The trained-bands were continually kept on duty during the trial of the doctor, who at last was condemned not to preach for three years, and his two sermons to be burnt at the Royal Exchange by the common hangman.

The number of houses and inhabitants being greatly increased in the city of London and its suburbs, the churches were thereby rendered insufficient for their accommodation: wherefore, the parliament, in 1710, enacted, that "fifty new churches should be erected in or near the populous cities of London and Westminster, or suburbs thereof." For which purpose they laid a duty of two shillings upon every chaldron or ton of coals that should be brought into the port of London.

The city of London, having been greatly injured by the number of foreigners who exercised manual operations and retail trades, in contradiction to the laws and customs of the city, an act of common-council was passed in this year, "That no person whatsoever, not being free of the city, shall, by any colour, way, or means, whatsoever, directly or indirectly, by himself or any other, use, exercise, or occupy, any art, trade, mystery, manual occupation, or handicraft whatsoever; or keep any shop, room, or place whatsoever, inward or outward, for show, sale, or putting to sale, of any wares or merchandize whatsoever, by way of retail, within the said city, or the liberties thereof, upon pain to forfeit five pounds. And that what freeman soever does set any person, that is not free, on work, knowing, and having notice given to him, that such person, so by him to be set to work, is a foreigner, shall forfeit five pounds. And that the freeman, who employs a foreigner to sell by retail, shall also forfeit five pounds for every offence."

A rumour being spread, in 1712, that the ministry were plotting for the pretender's accession to the crown, the trading part of the city were so intimidated at it, that a total stop was put to all commerce, and the general credit of the nation suffered greatly. In this critical juncture, the queen found it necessary, for the support of credit, and to prevent the citizens from entering into associations, or schemes, by which the measures of government might be impeded, to send a letter to the lord mayor, to be communicated to the aldermen and citizens, "to the intent that they might all, in their several stations, contribute to discountenance, and put a stop to, those malicious rumours, spread by evil-disposed persons, to the prejudice of credit, and the imminent hazard of the public peace and tranquillity.

In the year 1713, a peace being made with France, it was publicly proclaimed in London, on the 7th of July; on which occasion both houses of parliament attended a general thanksgiving, at St. Paul's. Her majesty, being ill of the gout, was unable to be present at the solemnity.

The report about the pretender gained so much credit, and was so publicly avowed by the papists and non-jurors, who openly wrote in defence of his claim to the crown, and went so far as to enlist men for his service, that, to quiet the people's minds, it was found necessary to publish a proclamation, with a reward of five thousand pounds, for apprehending the pretender: and this, in some measure, dispelled the gloomy apprehensions of the citizens, who, in a very loyal address, thanked her majesty for publishing so seasonable a proclamation.

Many irregularities being complained of in the coal-meter's office, in the city, a committee was appointed to inquire into them; whose report being approved of, the court of lord mayor and aldermen made an order for their future regulation, in conformity to the ancient method and usage.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Accession of the House of Hanover.—His Majesty entertained at Guildhall.—Instructions to the City Representatives.--Threatened Invasion.--Rebellion.--Hard Frost. Mug-house Riots.—The Magistrates of the City omit to subscribe the Declaration against the solemn League and Covenant.—Committee of the Lords to inquire into the Expenditure of the City Cash.—Frequency of Robberies. —South-Sea Bubble.—Prohibition against the Use of Indian Calicoes.—Quarantine.—Conspiracy in Favour of the Pretender.—Number of Horses in London.—Establishment of Chelsea Water-works.—Act relative to Party Walls.—Contested Election for Lord Mayor.—Act of Parliament for regulating Elections.—Treaty between Germany and Spain.—Orator Henley.—Foundation of Guy's Hospital.—Mutiny in Newgate.—Death of George I.

On the death of Queen Anne, which happened on the 1st of August, 1714, George Lewis, Elector of Hanover, was proclaimed King of Great Britain, &c. with the usual solemnities: soon after which his majesty made his public entry into London, accompanied by his son, Prince George. In a few days after, the city and lieutenancy addressed his majesty, in form, at St. James's; who, in reply, said, "I take these addresses very kindly. I have lately been made sensible of what consequence the city of London is, and therefore shall be sure to take all their privileges and interests into my particular protection." And, as an immediate mark of his favour, he conferred the honour of knighthood on John Ward, Gerard Conyers, Thomas Scawen, Peter Delme, Joseph Lawrence, and Robert Child, Esquires.

His majesty having received an invitation from the city, to dine at Guildhall on the approaching lord mayor's day, he was graciously pleased to accept of the same; at which time, his majesty and their royal highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by a numerous train of nobility, went to the usual place of standing, opposite Bow-church, in Cheapside, and, after having beheld the pompous cavalcade, were conducted by the sheriffs to Guildhall, where they were sumptuously entertained by the citizens, who exerted the utmost of their abilities to convince them of their loyalty and affection for his majesty's person and government. And the lord mayor, having the honour to present the first glass of wine to the king, his majesty was pleased to order a patent to be passed for creating his lordship a baronet of this kingdom, and, at the same time, ordered one thousand pounds to be paid to the sheriffs, for the relief and discharge of poor people imprisoned for debt.

The detestation in which the citizens held the proceedings of the late ministry, and the dishonourable peace they had concluded with France, was strongly expressed in their spirited instructions to the members chosen to represent them in parliament. Their preamble was as follows: "We, the citizens of London, who have cheerfully elected you to serve us in parliament, and thereby committed to your trust the safety, liberty, property, and privileges, of us and our posterity, think it our duty, as it is our undoubted right, to acquaint you what we desire and expect from you, in discharge of the great confidence we repose in you, and what we take to be your duty as our representatives." Eighteen specific articles are then directed to be inquired into; and the paper concludes thus:

19. That you not only concur in such inquiries, but also, in a parliamentary way, to bring such to justice, as shall be found guilty of those mismanage-

ments: this being a duty owing to ourselves, as well as our confederates, and indispensably necessary for retrieving the honour of the nation, and restoring a due confidence and harmony betwixt us and our allies.

20. That you concur in making such laws as shall be thought necessary for the better security of the churches of England and Scotland, as severally by the laws established, and for suppressing and preventing those seditious and groundless clamours of the church of England being in danger by his majesty's administration.

21. That you concur in giving the king such sums as shall be thought necessary for enabling his majesty to defend the nation, to support and retrieve trade, and to keep the balance of Europe, which is threatened with a new war, by the intrigues of our common enemies.

The king having informed the parliament of his receiving certain advices from abroad, of an intended invasion in favour of the pretender, the corporation of London, and the merchants, and other traders of the same city, presented separate addresses to his majesty on the occasion, containing the strongest assurances of their loyalty and support, in defence of his royal person and government.

This threatened invasion, however, soon afterwards turned out to be an open rebellion, fomented and brought about in Scotland, by the Earl of Mar, who raised the pretender's standard at Braemar, on the 9th of September; but this rebellion was of short duration.

The winter of this year is remarkable for a hard frost, which began in the last week of November, and continued, with some short intermissions, until the 9th of February; the severity of it was greater than any man living could remember; the Thames having been frozen, nearly the whole time, so strongly, that all sorts of wares were sold on it; and, on the 19th of January, two large oxen were roasted whole upon the ice. The vast quantities of snow that fell, at different times, during this frost, made the streets of London almost impassable.

By a long dry season, the fresh water stream of the Thames was reduced so low, that, on the 13th of December, 1717, a strong wind from the west-south-west, having kept back the water from the sea, many thousands of people crossed the river on foot, both above and below London-bridge, and walked through most of the arches.

In the year 1718, the lord mayor and aldermen, being apprehensive of receiving trouble from designing men, for their neglect to subscribe the declaration against the solemn league and covenant at their admission into office, addressed his majesty, praying that he would be graciously pleased to give such directions and orders therein, as should effectually quiet the minds of his petitioners, &c. To which address his majesty was graciously pleased to return the following answer: "I am fully persuaded of your duty and affection to me and my government; and I take this application kindly, as it is a mark of your trust and confidence in me. I shall be glad, not only for your sakes, but my own, if any defects, which may touch the rights of my good subjects, are discovered in my time; since that will furnish me with means of giving you, and all my people, an indisputable proof of my tenderness for their privileges, and how unwilling I shall be to take advantage of their mistakes."

Complaint being made to the House of Lords, in in the year 1719, that great sums of money had been issued out of the chamber of London, to prosecute law-suits upon controverted elections, the lords appointed a committee to examine into the complaint, who found that, subsequent to the 13th of November, 1711, the city had paid the sum of two thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven pounds ten shillings, for these purposes, in the wards of Langbourn, Tower, and Cheap; and that not one of the suits, so ordered to be carried on by the common-council, and for which so great a sum of money had been expended, were ever determined in favour of the prosecutors: whereupon the house came to the following resolution: "Resolved, by the lords spiritual and temporal, in parliament assembled, that it is the opinion of this house, that the common-councils of London, having issued great sums of money out of the chamber of London, in maintaining several suits of law between citizen and citizen, relating to controverted elections, have abused their trust, and been guilty of great partiality, and of gross mismanagement of the city treasure, and a violation of the freedom of elections in the city."

Robberies were now become so intolerable, within and about the metropolis, that it was thought to deserve the consideration and power of government, to put a check thereunto. Wherefore a proclamation was published, promising a reward of one hundred pounds, for apprehending any highwayman within five miles of London.

The most prominent of the transactions of the year 1720, never had, nor, it is to be hoped, never will have, its parallel, in the annals of the metropolis, and may serve as a perpetual memento to legislators, of the danger of suffering the honest industry of a nation to be diverted from its regular course, by fallacious speculations and visionary projects. The effects of the South-Sea bubble have ceased too long to make it necessary to enter into a detailed account of all the ruinous schemes which followed the legislative

tive sanction given to the first: a few of the most striking occurrences must, however, be selected.

The South-Sea Company had been very successful in taking in the irredeemable annuities of the lottery of 1710, and, the reduction of the remainder of such securities, which were to a considerable amount, being a great object with the ministry, the directors of this company were encouraged to offer proposals for bringing them all into a redeemable state. Accordingly, in January, 1720, the company offered to give three millions five hundred thousand pounds to the public, for the privilege of taking the irredeemable annuities, with part of the redeemable debt, into their capital stock, either by purchase, or by subscription. This excited the jealousy of the Bank, who, on the same day, offered five millions for this privilege. Other proposals were made by both companies; but the last bidding of the South-Sea Company, amounting to seven millions five hundred and sixty-seven thousand five hundred pounds, was accepted, and an act of parliament was passed, to enable them to carry it into effect. So great was the infatuation, that, notwithstanding many enlightened members of the legislature pointed out the ruinous consequences of the measure, as well to the nation as to individuals, the ministry would yield to no objections, nor could the speculators be diverted from their purpose: even before the bill had passed, the price of that stock rose to three hundred and nineteen per cent. and, by Midsummer, was at upwards of one thousand per cent.

This frenzy also affected the value of East-India and Bank stocks; for, as people began to return to their senses, they got rid of their stock in the South-Sea and other bubbles, as they were justly termed, and invested the money in these two, the greater security of which became soon apparent; and East-

India stock rose to four hundred and forty-five per cent. and Bank stock to two hundred and sixty per cent. The advanced price upon all the stocks, about Midsummer of this year, was estimated at five hundred millions sterling, or about five times as much as the current cash of all Europe.

Towards the close of the year, the holders of South-Sea stock were fatally convinced of their credulity: the bubble burst; and nobles, merchants, clergy, bankers, lawyers, and tradesmen, were involved in common ruin! Many, unable to stand the shock of poverty and contempt, terminated their woes by suicide; others lingered out a miserable existence, till a broken heart put a period to their misfortunes; numbers withdrew to remote parts of the world, from whence they never returned; and the shock given to traders of every description, was such, that bankruptcy became fashionable. Some retaliation was, however, afterwards made by the parliament, who passed an act, whereby the directors were compelled to forfeit their estates, for the relief of thousands whom they had ruined by their iniquitous proceedings.

Though the South-Sea scheme was the most disastrous in its consequences, and may be considered as the original cause of all the evils which followed, yet this chimerical traffic had seized the minds of all ranks so completely, that projects of the most absurd nature, without the sanction of parliament, or even the name of an individual, to give them the appearance of stability, were sold for upwards of six times their nominal value. Of upwards of two hundred schemes of this description, one will be sufficient to show the nature of these transactions. Globe permits were currently sold in the Alley for sixty guineas, and upwards, each. These permits, which were square bits of playing cards, with an impression of the sign of the Globe Tavern, in wax, and without

out any signature, entitled the holders of them to subscribe to a new sail-cloth manufactory, which, as may be supposed, never was established. Yet all men were not infatuated; and one advertisement in a weekly newspaper, burlesqued the prevailing madness in the following strain: "At a certain (sham) place, on Tuesday next, books will be opened for a subscription of two millions, for the invention of melting down saw-dust and chips, and casting them into clean deal boards, without cracks or knots!"

The wear of printed Indian calicoes, both in apparel and household furniture, was at this time become so universal, as to be a great detriment and obstruction to both the woollen and silk manufactures of the kingdom. This had occasioned several riots and tumults of the weavers, in London, and it was found necessary to redress a grievance in which so many families were interested: an act of parliament was therefore passed, in 1721, imposing a fine of five pounds, for each offence, on the wearer of these articles, and twenty pounds on the seller.

About this time, the plague raging violently at Marseilles, in France, the parliament, fearful it should approach this kingdom, passed an act for performing quarantine; wherein it was enacted, that every infected place should be inclosed, and shut up, by a line or trench, in order to cut off all communication; and that all persons endeavouring to escape from the said infected place, without having regularly performed quarantine, should suffer death, as felons convict, without benefit of clergy.

The citizens of London, apprehending that not only their rights and privileges, but likewise that the trade and prosperity of the city were greatly affected by this act; the lord mayor, aldermen, common-council, and merchants, petitioned the House of Lords against three clauses in the said act, then under their lordships' consideration. After some debates, the question being put that the said petition be received, it passed in the negative by a majority of sixty-three against twenty-two voices. But though the petition was rejected, a bill was soon after brought in and passed both houses, for repealing the clauses that affected the city of London.

Advice being received, in the year 1722, of a most treacherous conspiracy carried on in favour of the pretender, Viscount Townshend, one of the principal secretaries of state, by his majesty's command, wrote a letter to the lord mayor, acquainting him with this circumstance; a very loyal and dutiful address was presented on the following day by the lord mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and recorder, of London, which was very graciously received.

On the same day a proclamation was published for putting the laws in force against papists and nonjurors, commanding all papists and reputed papists to remove from the cities of London and Westminster, and all places within ten miles of the same.

This was accompanied with every precaution a wise and able government could suggest. Amongst other things the privy-council ordered the several lieutenancies, within the bills of mortality, to return a true and just account of the number of horses found within their several jurisdictions; when the sum total did not amount to more than seventeen thousand six hundred and one, including saddle-horses, coach-horses, and draught-horses. In which account there is no mention made of the borough of Southwark, nor of any part on that side of the river Thames.

The vast increase of buildings in the western suburb of London requiring a greater supply of fresh water than the existing works could furnish, an act of parliament was passed in this year, authorising a newly erected company, called the Chelsea water-company, to dig basons, reservoirs, &c. for the better supply of the city and liberties of Westminster, and parts adjacent, with water.

Various disputes having arisen among the citizens about party-walls and water-spouts, application was made to parliament to put an end to these contentions, by whom it was enacted, that if any person refused or neglected to build his share of a party-wall, after due notice given him, his next neighbour may build it for him, and oblige the person so neglecting to pay the charges of rebuilding it. And it was further enacted, that the water, falling from the tops of houses, balconies, and penthouses, shall be conveyed into channels or kennels, by pipes in the front or sides of the house, under the penalty of twenty pounds.

The election of lord mayor for the city of London, this year, coming on, as usual, at the common hall, on the 29th of September, Sir Gerard Conyers and Sir Peter Delme, gentlemen, both of great fortune and merit, and also the two aldermen next the chair, were put in nomination, and declared to have the majority of hands. But a poll was demanded, and granted, for Sir George Mertins and Sir Francis Forbes: which began on the 1st of October and ended on the third. And next day the sheriffs declared that they had cast up the poll, and that the majority of votes had fallen upon Sir Gerard Conyers and Sir Peter Delme: who, being returned to the court of aldermen, they made choice of the former: which, in all probability, brought on the following application to parliament.

On the 14th of December, 1724, many citizens of London petitioned the House of Commons, setting forth several grievances they laboured under in the said city, and praying, "That, for promoting the welfare, for preserving the liberties, the peace and tranquillity of the said city, and for settling elections in the said city, on a just and lasting foundation, the house would take the premises into consideration, and give the petitioners such relief as the house should think fit." Whereupon a bill was ordered to be brought in, for regulating elections in the city of London; and for preserving the peace, good order, and government of the said city.

This bill created a great ferment in the city, and was strongly opposed in the House of Commons by three of the city representatives, who received the thanks of the court of common-council for their strenuous endeavours to prevent it from passing into a law.

On the 24th of March, printed papers were dispersed, inviting the citizens to assemble at Guildhall the next day, at five o'clock in the afternoon, to consider the merits of the bill; but the lord mayor and aldermen, resenting this measure as a violation of their authority, ordered the gates of the hall to be shut as soon as the business of the common-council, which had been called on the occasion, should be finished. The lord mayor also sent information of what had passed to the ministry; upon which the guards at St. James's, Leicester-house, and Somerset-house, were doubled, and such other precautions were taken as kept all things quiet; the heads of the bill were also printed, that the citizens might be better informed of the law intended to be passed.

As soon as the citizens knew the contents of it, and that it was sent up to the House of Lords for their determination, a great number of them petitioned the house against it, as being injurious to their liberties. After the bill was read a second time, it was proposed by their lordships to ask the opinions of the judges, " whether this bill affects any of the prescriptions, privileges, customs, and liberties, of the said city of London, restored to them, or preserved by the act passed in the second year of King William and Queen Mary, for reversing the judgment on the *Quo Warranto* against the city of London, and for restoring the said city to its ancient rights and privileges."

Various debates arising thereupon, the question was put, " Whether the judges shall deliver their opinions upon the said proposed question ?" This was at length determined in the negative, in consequence of which the bill passed into a law; but the fifteenth clause, by which a negative in passing acts of common-council, was given to the lord mayor and aldermen was afterwards repealed.

A treaty of peace having been concluded between the Emperor of Germany and the King of Spain, very disadvantageous to the rights and privileges of Great Britain, and calculated to destroy the chief branches of the British trade, and to favour the pretender, the citizens of London on this occasion presented an address to the king, containing the warmest professions of attachment to his person and government, and the strongest assurances of their support against the designs of their common enemies. His majesty not only returned them his hearty thanks for this additional mark of their affection, but also entertained the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council in a very sumptuous manner at dinner in his palace at St. James's, attended by the principal ministers of state, and a great number of the nobility.

About this time Orator Henley, the son of a worthy divine, set up a new sect under the title of an Oratory: to promote which, he informed the public, that on the third of July the oratory would be opened; that the fundamental authority of this institution, considered as a church, would be the same with that of all the modern churches; that is, "a legal liberty of private judgment in religion, which is the very principle of the reformation, the basis of all the protestant interest, and the most valuable branch of the freedom of our constitution." At the same time, in order to prevent any disturbance that might arise on account of his separation from the church, in which he had been ordained a priest, he resolved to shelter himself under the canon of the toleration act; for which purpose he took the oaths of abjuration and allegiance, before the bench of justices at Hicks's Hall.

The place Mr. Henley adapted for his oratory was very remarkable, and befitting his novel institution; being a sort of wooden booth, built over the shambles in Newport market, near Leicester-fields, formerly used for a temporary meeting-house of a calvinistical congregation. After which he moved near to the west entrance into Clare-market.

Although his private fortune was greatly increased by money paid for admission into his oratory for upwards of thirty-five years, yet he could never form an established congregation; nor does it appear that his religion gained him one proselyte; his whole system and conduct for that time exhibiting nothing more than satire, burlesque, and grimace.

In this year Guy's Hospital was built, at the sole expense of Mr. Thomas Guy, formerly a bookseller in London, and afterwards member of parliament for Tamworth, his native place.

In the year 1726, some malefactors under sentence of death in Newgate, having been previously supplied with arms, barricaded the door of the cell on the morning appointed for their execution; intimation

tion whereof being sent to the sheriff, he went to the prison, and endeavoured to persuade them to surrender; but they remained obstinate, on which, the keepers fired in upon them from above; and, after receiving several wounds, they surrendered, and were executed according to their sentence. The sheriff, however, was seized with the goal distemper, of which he soon after died.

On the eleventh of June, 1727, his majesty, George I. died at Osnaburgh, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and the thirteenth of his reign.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Accession of George II.—The Royal Family entertained at Guildhall.—Attempt to rob the Queen.—Vessels arrived in the Port of London within the Year.—High Tide.—Epidemical Distemper.—Fleet-market built.—Opposition to the Excise-bill.—Bill to prevent Stock-jobbing.—Contest for the Office of Chamberlain.—Law-suit relative to the City's Jurisdiction in Black-friars.—Act of Common-council for regulating Bakers.—Law for lighting the City.—Play-houses put under Restrictions.—Petition of the London Merchants against Spain.—The Spanish Convention disapproved by the Citizens.—Petition against it.—Ministerial Insolence.—Storm.—War with Spain.

ON the demise of King George I. his only son, George, then Prince of Wales, was proclaimed king, in London, on the 15th of June, 1727, by the name of George II. Two days after his majesty's proclamation, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, addressed his majesty and the queen, separately, in a most loyal and affectionate manner. And at a court of common-council, held on the 6th of October following, it was unanimously resolved to invite their majesties, and their royal highness the prince and princesses to dinner, at Guildhall, on the approaching lord mayor's day; pursuant to which, the lord mayor elect, with the sheriffs and recorder, were ordered to wait on their majesties to know their royal pleasure; at the same time, a committee of four aldermen and eight commoners were appointed to attend his majesty, to beg leave to put up the pictures of him and his royal consort in Guildhall. His majesty being accordingly attended on both these occasions, he was pleased to accept of the former, and comply with the latter; information of which being the next day given in common-council, a committee of eight aldermen and sixteen commoners were appointed to superintend the entertainment to be provided on the occasion.

On the appointed day their majesties, with the duke and princesses, attended by the great officers of state, the foreign ministers, and a numerous train of the nobility, came into the city, and, at the usual place appointed for the purpose, beheld the procession; after which they were conducted to Guildhall, at the entrance whereof, the lord mayor, kneeling, presented the city sword to the king, who immediately returning the same, it was carried before their majesties to the council-chamber, where the recorder, in the name of the city, made an appropriate speech. Their majesties and the princesses then proceeded to the hustings, where they were most sumptuously entertained; after which, they honoured the ball with their presence till eleven o'clock in the evening. At his departure his majesty ordered the sum of one thousand pounds to be paid to the sheriffs, for the relief and discharge of poor insolvent debtors. The expense of this entertainment, as it is recorded in the chamber of London, amounted to four thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine pounds four shillings.

In the year 1728, a daring project was concerted to rob the queen on her return at night from the city, as was afterwards confessed by one of the gang when under sentence of death. This scheme, however, was happily frustrated by the villains being busily employed, at the time her majesty passed, in robbing Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Alderman of London, as he was returning in his chariot from the House of Commons. This circumstance, together with the great number of robberies which had been committed in the most daring manner within the cities of London and Westminster, greatly alarmed both the court and city; and letters were immediately sent from the secretaries of state to all the magistrates, enjoining them to use their utmost endeavours to suppress such villainies, and to bring the offenders to justice.

An idea may be formed of the state of the commerce of London at this period by the number of vessels which arrived at its port between Christmas, 1727, and Christmas, 1728; viz. from foreign ports, British vessels, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine; foreign ships, two hundred and thirteen; coasters, six thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven: Total, eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine vessels.

On the last day of December, in the year 1731, the tide in the river Thames rose so high, that it overflowed Wapping, Tooley-street, and many other places, and did incredible damage by filling cellars and warehouses, and spoiling great quantities of different sorts of merchandize.

A short time after, an epidemical distemper, which consisted of a cold, attended with a fever, raged for some time with such violence in the city of London, that it took off a great number of the inhabitants. The bill of mortality, in one week, was increased to six times its usual number.

On the 26th of February, 1733, a petition was presented to the House of Commons, by the sheriffs of London, from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, setting forth, that by an act of parliament made in the 22d year of the reign of Charles II. intituled, "An additional act for rebuilding the city of London, uniting of parishes, and rebuilding of the cathedral and parochical churches within the said city;" the channel of Bridewell-dock, from the river Thames to Holborn-bridge, was directed to be sunk to a sufficient level, to make it navigable, under such limitations as are prescribed by the said act: and, in pursuance of the said act, the channel was soon after made navigable, from the Thames to Holborn-bridge; but that the profits arising from the navigation had not answered the charge of making; that part of the said channel, from Fleet-bridge to Holborn-bridge, instead of being useful to trade, as was intended, is filled up with mud, and become a common nuisance, and that several persons have lost their lives by falling into it: that the expense of cleansing and repairing the same will be very great, and that a greater annual charge will be required to keep the same in repair, than the profits arising therefrom will defray. They therefore prayed that a bill might be brought in, to repeal so much of that act as relates to the said channel; and to empower the petitioners to fill up that part of it from Fleet-street to Holborn-bridge, and to convert the ground to such uses as they shall think fit and convenient.

In consequence of this petition, a bill was soon after brought in and passed; by virtue of which, the premises were arched over, and the ground converted into a market, which was opened on the 30th of September, 1737.

The year 1738 is distinguished by the strenuous opposition of the citizens of London to a scheme, concerted by the ministry, for introducing a general excise, under pretence of easing the people of various taxes, and promoting the interest of the fair trader. Before the day appointed by the minister for introducing this measure into the House of Commons, a court of common-council being summoned, they unanimously agreed to recommend it to their representatives, to use their utmost efforts to defeat so pernicious a design; and their reasons were set forth in the following representation, which was delivered to them.

"This court doth apprehend, from the experience of the laws of excise now in being, that extending those laws to any commodities not yet excised, must necessarily be very prejudicial to trade, both as it will probably diminish the consumption of the commodity to be excised, and subject the fair trader to the frequent and arbitrary visitation of officers, and judicial determination of commissioners, removeable at pleasure, and from whom there is no appeal.

"That the extension of such laws must necessarily increase the number and power of officers; which will be inconsistent with those principles of liberty on which our happy constitution is founded, and will farther deprive the subjects of England of some of those valuable privileges, which have hitherto distinguished them from the neighbouring nations.

"Wherefore, this court doth earnestly recommend it to you, their representatives, to use your utmost diligence in opposing a scheme of this nature, should any such be offered in parliament, in any shape, or however limited in its first appearance; being fully convinced, that an inland duty upon goods now rated at the Custom-house, cannot be effectually collected, even with the extension of the powers, or the severest exercise of all the rigours of the present laws of excise."

When the outline of the proposed measure was stated to the house, and a motion was made for leave to bring in a bill, the city members opposed it with all their abilities, and were powerfully supported by many eminent independent members; but, on the question being put, it was carried in the affirmative, by a majority of sixty-one. The success of the minister did not, however, discourage his opponents, who debated the bill, through every stage, with increasing earnestness. To prevent the contents of the bill from being known, a majority of the house determined that it should not be printed for the use of the members, as is usual: the lord mayor, however, with great difficulty, procured a copy of it, which he laid before a court of common-council, summoned to deliberate on the best means to prevent it from being passed; and it was resolved that a petition should be immediately drawn up, and presented to the house, praying to be heard by counsel against it. The petition being presented, and a motion made for granting the prayer of it, another animated debate ensued; and, on the division, it was carried in the negative, by 214 against 197.

Notwithstanding this, the powerful opposition of the city, which was supported by several of the principal counties, soon convinced Sir Robert Walpole of the impossibility of carrying his point, without endangering the peace of the nation, and his own safety. In consequence of which, the bill, instead of being read a second time, on the 11th of May, as had been appointed, was, upon a motion made by Sir Robert, deferred till the 12th of June, a day exceeding the time limited for the continuance of the session; so that the passing of the bill became impracticable, and Sir Robert Walpole's scheme, by the firm and steady interposition of the citizens, proved entirely abortive.

The miscarriage of the Excise bill was celebrated by public rejoicings throughout the cities of London and Westminster; and the minister who projected it was burnt in effigy.

Many great inconveniencies to commerce, and frequent frauds having arisen from stock-jobbing, in the city of London, an act of parliament was passed in 1734, to prevent the infamous practice of stock-jobbing; by which heavy penalties are laid upon every fictitious bargain, for the sale or purchase of stock: but the severity of the law has not been found adequate to the extinction of this pernicious traffic.

The chamberlainship of the city of London being at this time vacant, a great contest arose between the citizens and the ministry, respecting the election of a proper person into that office. The candidates were Mr. John Bosworth, a tobacconist, of Newgate-street; Mr. William Selwin, a silkman, in Paternoster-row; and Mr. John Thomas, a fishmonger, near the Monument. Mr. Thomas, making no show of hands in the common-hall, declined: but the numbers appeared so equal for each of the other candidates, that a poll was demanded by the friends of Mr. Selwin against Mr. Bosworth, who was declared to have the majority of hands. The poll was managed with all the dexterity and influence that can be imagined; and though both the candidates were personally well respected by their fellow-citizens, and were looked upon to be equally qualified for the discharge of that important trust, yet the contest, for seven days, was the warmest ever known; the citizens being determined to preserve their freedom of election against any ministerial opposition whatever. On the close of the poll, however, the numbers appeared so equal, that a scrutiny was demanded; and when the declaration was made, they stood as follows:

For Mr. Bosworth,	-	3212.
Mr. Selwin,	-	3208.

In consequence of which, to the great satisfaction of the citizens, Mr. Bosworth was declared duly elected, and chamberlain of the city of London.

The ministry, however, so highly resented this strenuous opposition to a candidate of their choice, that they conferred the office of receiver-general of the land-tax, which had generally been annexed to the chamberlainship, on their disappointed friend, Mr. Selwin, who had obtained the ill-will of the independent voters of the city of London, by having unadvisedly solicited the ministerial party to oblige all their dependents to vote for him.

In the year 1735, the inhabitants of the precinct of Black-friars claiming a privilege of exemption from the jurisdiction of the city of London, in right of the ancient monastery being dissolved there by King Henry VIII. occasioned the lord mayor and aldermen to ascertain their right thereto; which they did by a trial in the court of King's-bench, on the 10th of July; wherein John Bosworth, Esq. chamberlain of the city of London, was plaintiff, and Daniel Watson, shalloon and drugget-seller, defendant. The action was brought against the latter, for opening a shop in Black-friars, and retailing his goods there, without being a freeman of the city. The counsel for the plaintiff alleged, that Black-friars actually belonged to the city of London when it was a monastery, and before trades were ever occupied there: to prove which, they produced several ancient records, viz. a charter of King Edward I. and a record, 2 Richard II. calling it the Friary of London; and another, 21 Hen. VIII. mentioning a parliament, held at the Friars-preachers of the city of London, Nov. 3, 1530, and other records of this kind: they likewise cited a parallel case to this, 15 Car. I. when an action was brought against one Philpot, a shoemaker, of Black-friars, for opening a shop, and vending shoes there, without being free of the city; and, after a fair trial, by an equal and indifferent jury of the county of Hertford, a verdict was given for the plaintiff, with five shillings damages. In consequence of this decision,

sion, Black-friars became a precinct of the ward of Farringdon within, and sends two members to represent it in the common-council of this city.

An act of common-council was passed, in November, for the better regulation of bakers; in which it was enacted, that, in addition to the fine, the name and place of abode of every baker, convicted of making bread under weight, shall be published.

The streets of London being greatly infested with robbers and house-breakers, owing to the insufficiency of the lights in the night, application was made to parliament, by the lord mayor and common-council, to enable them to light the streets in a more effectual manner: in compliance with which, an act was passed, empowering the lord mayor, aldermen, and commonalty, to erect a sufficient number of such glass lamps, and in such places, as they shall judge proper, to be kept burning from the setting to the rising of the sun, throughout the year; and giving them power to make a rate, to defray the expense thereof.

An act of parliament was also passed in this year, to limit the number of play-houses, and to subject all writings, intended for the stage, to the inspection of the lord chamberlain.

On the 17th of December, the freedom of the city of London was presented to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales: he had, a short time before, been complimented with the freedom of the company of sadlers.

The merchants of London, finding themselves still greatly oppressed by the Spanish depredations on their American trade, presented a petition to the House of Commons, in March, 1738, in which they set forth the several applications that had been made to parliament, and the grievances under which they laboured, by the continuance and increase of these unwarrantable injuries; at the same time praying relief, and to be heard by themselves and counsel. Leave being given to bring up the petition, a debate ensued upon the prayer of it, it being contrary to the forms of the house, to admit both the petitioners and their counsel to the bar: but the urgency of the case was so strong, and the expediency of the deviation so well supported, that, notwithstanding the opposition of the minister, the question was carried in the affirmative.

On the 1st of February, 1739, the king opened the session of parliament with a speech; in which he stated, that a convention was concluded with the King of Spain, by which that prince had agreed to make reparation to the British subjects for their losses, by stipulated payments, and that plenipotentiaries were appointed for settling all matters in dispute; but as this convention did not determine on the Spanish claim to search British ships, or contain any security against the recurrence of their depredations, during the discussion, it was universally disliked.

The citizens of London, thinking themselves particularly aggrieved by this proceeding, resolved to petition the House of Lords against the convention. Accordingly, on the 20th of February, a court of common-council was held, when, a petition being drawn up, and approved of, it was presented to the house by the Duke of Bedford, who introduced it with the following appropriate speech.

"My Lords,

"I have in my hand a petition from a very great body of men; no less a body, my lords, than the citizens of London. The importance of this juncture called upon them to assemble and deliberate upon the most proper means of preventing the effects of the convention, which they apprehend to be ruinous, not only to them, but the whole kingdom, from taking place. Encouraged, my lords, by their former experience of your lordships' great indulgence, they resolved to proceed in the most dutiful manner, by petitioning your lordships to take the reasons they are ready to offer against the convention into your mature deliberation."

He then entered into a full and masterly detail of all the causes of complaint, for which no remedy was provided by the convention, and concluded thus:

"Your lordships' petitioners, therefore, having laid before you the high importance which this trade is of to the nation in general, and to this city in particular, thought it their indispensable duty to represent to the parliament the fatal consequences of leaving the freedom of their navigation and commerce any longer in suspense and uncertainty; and therefore they humbly hope your lordships will take it into mature deliberation, and do therein as to your great wisdom shall seem meet."

This petition was followed by others, from Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. all of which contained a prayer to be heard against the terms of the convention; but the minister had taken his measures too well, and a majority of twenty-four determined the question in his favour. Soon after which, an address of approval was obtained in the House of Commons; though this gave strong indications of the declining power of the ministry; the numbers being 262 to 235.

It was on this occasion, that Sir Robert Walpole took the liberty to call the citizens of London *sturdy beggars;* and, for the purpose of propagating a mean opinion of them, and taking off the weight of their petitions, in matters of national concern, he circulated printed lists of the common-council-men of London, with the addition of their several trades, or companies, to insinuate, that they were a contemptible body of tradesmen or mechanics.

The citizens, on their part, took every opportunity of showing their dislike to the minister's conduct; and, discovering that Sir George Champion, the senior alderman next the chair, and member for Aylesbury, had voted in favour of the convention, they rejected him from the office of lord mayor, and ever after held him in the greatest contempt.

On the 10th of September, about seven o'clock in the evening, there fell a most violent storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with very heavy rain, which continued till near twelve at night. Though the thunder was not very violent, yet the flashes of lightning were as quick, and, at the same time, as strong, as, perhaps, were ever known in this part of the world. This tempestuous night was remarkable for the destruction of a large aviary of sparrows, which had for many years roosted in a grove of high trees, adjoining to Mile-end turnpike. Such numbers of them were killed by the lightning, that, the next morning, the ground, within the circumference of the trees, was covered with their dead bodies. The Rev. Mr. Entick, in his History of London, asserts, that he was an eye-witness of this circumstance.

At length the voice of the nation, and the well-founded complaints of the merchants, prevailed and war was declared against Spain, with the accustomed formalities, on the 22d of October, amidst innumerable spectators, who testified their satisfaction by the loudest acclamations.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

Foundation of the Mansion-house.—-Foundling Hospital. —-Severe Frost.—-Jurisdiction of the Court of Conscience extended.—-Election of Lord Mayor.—-Contested Election of an Alderman.—-Number of Houses in London.—-Instructions to the City Representatives.—-The junior Aldermen made Justices of the Peace.—Epidemic Fever.—Petition of the London Merchants.—Trials respecting Privileges.—Communication from the King.—War declared against France.—-Combination of Journeymen.—-Street Robbers.—-Rebellion.—-Addresses.—Citizens enrolled.—-Regiment of Lawyers.—-Subscriptions for the Soldiers.—-Camp on Finchley Common.—-Retreat of the Rebels.—Repeal of the Aldermens' Negative.—-End of the Rebellion.—-Thanks to the Lord Mayor.—-Execution of the Rebel Lords.—-Orphans' Fund.

No particular mansion had hitherto been provided for the use of the lord mayor, during the time of his holding that high office. Till this period, it was customary for the chief magistrate of the city to hold his mayoralty at some one of the halls, belonging to the twelve principal companies. This had been, for a long time, found very inconvenient; and it was therefore resolved, for the honour of the city, as well as for the convenience of better executing the business attendant on so high an office, to erect a house, as a mansion, for the lord mayor for the time being.

The lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, having determined on this matter, several places were proposed for its situation; as, the end of Paternoster-row, fronting Cheapside, Moorfields, and Stocks-market; when the latter was best approved of, from its being situated nearly in the center of the city, and in the heart of business. Stocks-market was therefore removed, and the ground dug up for laying the foundation; but it was found so full of springs, that it was thought necessary to erect the building on piles. A great number of piles being therefore driven close together, and every other preparation made, the first stone of the foundation was laid on the 25th of October, 1739, by the lord mayor, attended by a committee of aldermen and common-councilmen. The building was completed in 1753.

This year is also distinguished for the establishment and foundation of that noble charity, the Foundling Hospital; a full account of which will be given in the Survey.

The winter of the year 1739 was a season of the greatest distress to the poor, in consequence of a most severe frost, which began on Christmas-day, and continued till the end of February. Its intenseness and bad effects exceeded all others ever remembered. The river Thames was so solidly frozen, that great numbers of people dwelt upon it in tents, and a variety of booths were erected for the entertainment of the populace. A few days after it began, a very high wind arose, which did considerable damage to the shipping, which happened at that time to be very numerous. Several vessels laden with corn, others with coals, &c. were sunk by the ice; many had holes beat in their sides by falling on their anchors: several lighters and boats were confined under the ice: in short, a more dismal scene presented itself on the river Thames, than had ever been beheld by the oldest man living. The damage done between the Medway and London-bridge, was computed at one hundred thousand pounds, besides many persons who lost their lives from the severity of the weather. The watermen and fishermen were entirely disabled from earning their livelihood, as were the lower classes of labourers, whose employment is in the open air; and the calamity was rendered more severe by coals and other necessaries being advanced in their price in proportion to the intenseness and continuance of the frost. Happily for the poor the hand of liberality was never more extended; great benefactions were given by those of opulent fortunes, and considerable collections were made in most of the parishes in London; by the assistance of which, many families were preserved, that must otherwise have inevitably perished.

An act of parliament was passed in the course of this session, to amend and extend the powers of the court of conscience; by which every person, whether freeman or not, residing or seeking a livelihood within the city or its liberties, might sue or be sued in it.

At the election for the lord mayor, in the year 1740, the court of aldermen first chose the junior alderman, returned to them by the livery, who requested permission to decline; which being granted, the livery returned the senior alderman again, with one who had passed the chair. The aldermen again rejected the senior alderman; and Humphrey Parsons, Esq. the object of their choice, having consented to serve a second time, a motion was made in the court of common-council to return him their thanks; and an amendment being proposed, a long and very warm debate ensued upon the right of the aldermen to vote separately, and put a negative upon any question; and the claim being persisted in by its supporters, some of the aldermen and a considerable number of the common-council left the court, protesting against the exercise of the right. At length, on the 11th of November, this question was finally determined, against the right, in both the courts of aldermen and common-council, by a considerable majority.

On the death of Alderman Parsons, which took place on the 21st of March, 1740, Alderman Lambert was chosen to succeed him in the mayoralty for the remainder of the year; who, being accepted by the lord chancellor on the evening of his election, went next day in great state to the Tower, attended by the twelve companies, &c. and was sworn into his office by Lord Cornwallis, the constable, in a booth erected for that purpose without the west gate, agreeable to ancient custom, when the barons of the Exchequer are out of town.

The election of an alderman for Broad-street ward was soon after attended with great trouble and expense. The candidates were Charles Ewer, Esq. and Mr. Eggleton. On the close of the poll a scrutiny was demanded, and the numbers appearing to be exactly equal, the lord mayor held a wardmote at Draper's Hall for a new election; at which Charles Ewer, Esq. meeting with no opposition, was declared duly elected. In consequence of this, Mr. Eggleton petitioned the court of aldermen, setting forth his right to the election. On the day following, a rule was made in the court of King's-bench, to show cause why a mandamus should not be granted to swear in Mr. Eggleton, alderman of Broad-street ward; and, on the twenty-eighth, the court of aldermen, by consent of both parties, returned that neither party was duly elected. So that the determination of the election, being left to the court of King's-bench, it was tried in the Michaelmas term following, and decided in favour of Charles Ewer, Esq. who was accordingly sworn in.

An accurate account of the number of houses in every precinct of the twenty-five wards within the bars, or limits of the lord mayor's jurisdiction, Bridge ward without not being included, was published, in 1741, by Mr. John Smart, of the Town Clerk's

Office; by which account it appears that the number of houses amounted, at that time, to twenty-one thousand six hundred and forty-nine.

At the general election, in May 1741, a paper of instructions was delivered to the representatives of the city of London, by their constituents, requiring them vigorously to oppose the keeping up a standing army in times of peace, and all attempts towards an extension of the excise laws; to endeavour to obtain the repeal of the septennial act, and the restoration of triennial parliaments; as also to procure a bill for reducing and limiting the number of placemen in the House of Commons; and, lastly, that in granting all aids and supplies, they should not deviate from the genuine form of the constitution, but make strict examination into every account of the national expense.

By the first charter granted to the citizens of London by King Charles I. the mayor, recorder, and such of the aldermen as had served the office of mayor, with the three senior aldermen who had not passed the chair, were constituted justices of the peace for the city and liberties; but, from the great increase of the metropolis since that time, it was now found necessary, for the more easy bringing delinquents to justice, to extend that power to the whole body of aldermen at large: in consequence of which, his majesty granted a charter, empowering all the aldermen to act as justices of the peace for the city and liberties of London; which charter bears date the 15th of August, 1741.

During the course of the summer of this year the city of London, and places adjacent, were visited with an epidemic fever, which, for several months together, carried off great numbers of people.

On the 20th of January, 1742, the merchants and traders of London presented a petition to the House of Commons, in which they set forth the great hardships they laboured under, and the losses they sustained, from Spanish privateers, for want of proper convoys. This was followed by another of the same tendency from the city of London, which was presented by the sheriffs on the 26th. The discontents of the people, arising from this and other causes, so strengthened the parliamentary opposition against Sir Robert Walpole, that finding he could no longer preserve that influence he had hitherto possessed, and being apprehensive of future consequences, he resigned his employments.

These petitions, with others from all the principal trading towns in Great Britain, were taken into consideration on the 18th of February, and a bill founded upon them was brought in by the city representatives, and passed the commons, but was thrown out in the lords. A number of small men of war were, however, ordered to cruize in the channel and on the enemy's coasts, for the protection of trade.

In Michaelmas term, 1742, a cause was tried before the Lord Chief Justice Willes, in which the company of Weavers were plaintiffs, and Mr. Thomas Handyside defendant. Mr. Handyside was free of the weavers' company; but, not being free of the city, had refused to take up the livery when he was called upon for that purpose. It appearing, however, to the court, that every member of a company is eligible to the livery, though not free of the city, a verdict was given in favour of the plaintiffs.

The same day another cause was tried on an action brought by Anthony Wright against William Ayres, the lessee of the toll of London-bridge, who had received, and insisted upon a prescriptive right to receive, two pence for the passage of each cart laden with one ton weight, or upwards, passing over London-bridge.

don-bridge. It appearing, however, by the evidence, that the usage had been to take one penny only for a cart with two horses, although laden with a ton or upwards, a verdict was given in favour of the plaintiff.

In the beginning of the year 1744, his majesty informed both houses of parliament that he had received intelligence of the pretender's eldest son's intention to invade this kingdom, with the assistance of France; and a communication of the same import being made to the lord mayor, separate addresses from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, the lieutenancy, and the merchants of London, were immediately presented, expressive of their firm attachment to the king and government, and their determination to support both against the menaced attack.

On the 25th of February a proclamation was issued, commanding all papists to depart the cities of London and Westminster, and within ten miles of the same; for confining papists and reputed papists to their habitations; for seizing the arms and horses from such as refuse to take the oaths, &c. and for putting the laws in execution against the instigators of tumultuous proceedings: and, on the 31st of March, his majesty's declaration of war was proclaimed against France at the usual places, and with the accustomed ceremonies on such occasions.

A great number of journeymen stay-makers and taylors having entered into a combination not to work for the wages established by law, and the same being represented to his majesty, the privy-council, on the 18th of September, by his majesty's command, wrote a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, Custos Rotulorum of the county of Middlesex, requiring his grace to recommend the justices of the peace to carry into execution the act of 7th

George I. for preventing all unlawful assemblies and combinations. Letters to the same purport were sent to the constable of the Tower, and to the Lord Mayor of London. In consequence of which, the justices met on the twenty-sixth, and came to the following resolution: " That if any journeyman should refuse to work for the wages settled by act of parliament, he should be committed to hard labour for two months: and that the master that paid more than the act allowed, should forfeit five pounds."

These resolutions were no sooner published than they produced the desired effect: the combination ceased, and the journeymen returned quietly to their respective employments.

The streets of the city of London were at this time so pestered with street-robbers, that it induced the lord mayor and aldermen to petition his majesty for " a speedy, rigorous, and exemplary execution of the laws upon the persons of offenders, as they shall fall into the hands of justice." In consequence of this petition, on the 9th of January following, his majesty issued a proclamation, promising a reward of one hundred pounds over and above all other rewards, for the apprehending of every person found guilty of robbery or murder.

The Duke of Newcastle, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, informed the lord mayor, by a letter in his majesty's name, dated the 5th of September, that one of the pretender's sons had erected a standard in Scotland, and that several persons had assembled under him in open rebellion, and recommending, at the same time, care and vigilance to keep every thing quiet in the city.

On the 10th, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, attended by the sheriffs, recorder, and all the city officers, waited upon his majesty at Kensington, with their address, as the representative body of the city of London; in which they congratulated his majesty on his safe return to his British dominions; and, on the conquest of Cape Breton; and conclude, "The rash and daring attempts of the professed enemies of this nation, in favour of a popish and abjured pretender, have filled the hearts of us, your loyal citizens, with the utmost abhorrence and detestation; and we beg leave to give your majesty the most solemn assurance, that we will be ready upon all occasions to sacrifice all that is dear and valuable to us, in defence of your majesty's royal person and family, and in support of our happy constitution, both in church and state."

The next day the merchants of London presented his majesty with a most dutiful and loyal address on the same occasion. And so anxious were they for supporting the public credit, that above eleven hundred of the most considerable merchants, traders, and proprietors of the public funds, subscribed their names to the following agreement:

"We, the undersigned merchants, and others, being sensible how necessary the preservation of public credit is at this time, do hereby declare, that we will not refuse to receive Bank notes in payment of any sum of money to be paid us; and we will use our utmost endeavours to make all our payments in the same manner."

In consequence of this resolution, the demands, which had been very considerable at the Bank a few days before for cash, began greatly to diminish. These hasty demands were said to have been occasioned by the Papists and Jacobites, with a design to hurt public credit as much as possible, and to get gold to send to the rebels; but in this they were disappointed by the directors ordering all payments to be made in silver.

All other necessary precautions were now taken for the security of the kingdom. Orders were issued to keep the trained-bands in readiness, and to array the militia of Westminster. Instructions to the same effect were also sent to all the lords lieutenants of counties throughout the kingdom.

The most substantial citizens, especially young gentlemen of fortune, merchants, and tradesmen, entered into different associations, learned the military exercise, and provided themselves with proper accoutrements and arms in defence of their king and country.

Among other bodies formed in London, at a meeting held in the Middle-Temple-hall, an association was subscribed by several gentlemen of the law, who agreed to form themselves into a regiment, under the command of the Lord Chief Justice Willes, to be denominated, " the association regiment of the law, for the defence of the royal family, and the preservation of the constitution in church and state." His majesty was so well pleased with this timely mark of their attachment, that the lord chief justice next day took his commission as colonel of the said regiment.

At a court of lord mayor and common-council, held on the the 3d of December, it was unanimously agreed to subscribe one thousand pounds out of the chamber of London, towards the relief, support, and encouragement of such soldiers, as then were, or should thereafter be employed in his majesty's service during the winter season, towards the suppression of the then unnatural rebellion. By this, and a voluntary subscription paid into the chamberlain's office at Guildhall, there was raised a sufficient stock to provide twelve thousand pair of breeches, twelve thousand shirts, ten thousand woollen caps, ten thousand pair of woollen stockings, one thousand blankets, twelve thousand pair of woollen gloves, and nine thousand pair of woollen spatterdashes, which were immediately converted to the use of the army.

On the 7th of December another proclamation was issued for discovering, apprehending, and bringing to trial, all jesuits and popish priests, who should be found after the ninth of that instant, in the cities of London and Westminster, or the borough of Southwark, or within ten miles of the same, with a reward of one hundred pounds to those who should discover or apprehend any such jesuit or popish priest.

The quakers also distinguished themselves by raising a sum of money amongst their own people to purchase woollen waistcoats, which they transmitted to the army in the north, for the soldiers to wear under their cloathing when obliged to keep the field in winter.

In consequence of the great progress made by the rebels, who had, by forced marches, and avoiding the rout of his majesty's forces under General Wade, advanced as far as Derby, in their way to London, the disaffected in and about the metropolis were so spirited up, that they publicly declared their sentiments ; and several treasonable papers, called the pretender's declarations, were put under the doors of peoples' houses, and dropped on the parade in St. James's park.

Matters at last came to such a crisis, that the troops in the neighbourhood of the city were ordered to march and form a camp on Finchley-common, and the king resolved to take the field in person, accompanied by the Earl of Stair: the militia of London and Middlesex was kept in readiness to march;

double watches were posted at the city gates, and signals of alarm appointed.

This state of anxious suspense was, however, but of short duration; the pretender, finding himself disappointed, and that no attempt was made by the French towards an invasion, called a council of war at Derby, where, after violent disputes, it was determined to retreat to Scotland with all possible expedition.

At a common-council held on the 23d of January, 1746, it was agreed to petition parliament for a repeal of the clause in the act passed in 1724, for regulating elections in the city of London, by which a power of negativing any question agitated in the court of common-council was vested in the mayor and aldermen; and, in consequence of this application, a bill was passed for repealing the clause complained of.

The rebellion being finally suppressed by the victory of Culloden, gained on the 16th of April, the lord mayor and aldermen, the court of common-council, and the merchants, &c. of the city of London, respectively addressed his majesty with their most sincere congratulations on that happy event.

Sir Richard Hoare, who was lord mayor in this troublesome year, received the particular thanks of the court of common-council and court of lieutenancy, for his diligence and steady attachment to his country, during the late time of imminent danger; for his constant readiness to call those courts together; and, in particular, for his personal attendance on all occasions.

Tranquillity being restored, it was thought necessary to make examples of some of the principal leaders of the rebellion. Accordingly, the Earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, and Lord Balmerino, were tried for high-treason in Westminster-hall, before the high court of judicature, the lord chancellor presiding as lord high steward; and, being found guilty, received sentence of death. Cromartie's life was spared, but the other two were beheaded on Tower-hill, on the 18th of August. Charles Ratcliffe, commonly called Earl of Derwentwater, who had been sentenced to death, for being concerned in the rebellion of 1715, and had made his escape out of Newgate, having been taken on board a ship bound to Scotland, was executed upon his former sentence, on the 8th of December. The last who suffered for this rebellion was Lord Lovat: he was beheaded on the 9th of April, 1747, pursuant to the sentence passed on him by the House of Peers.

On the 22d of October, 1747, the court of common-council resolved to raise two thousand pounds on the personal estates of the citizens, from Midsummer, 1747, to Midsummer, 1748, for the service of the Orphan-fund, pursuant to the powers of an act formerly passed for the relief of the orphans of London. By this act, the duty of six pence per chaldron, imposed on coals, for the relief of the fund, was to expire at Michaelmas, 1750: in consequence of which, at a court of common-council, held the 18th of December, 1747, they agreed to petition the parliament for its farther continuance. Accordingly, a bill was brought in and passed, by which the duty of six pence per chaldron, on coals and culm, was continued for thirty-five years longer, on the following conditions. First, that out of the produce of the said imposition, the city should pay three thousand pounds per annum to the Mercer's company; and, secondly, that the residue should be applied to the Orphans' fund: for the benefit of which, all the city manors, lands, &c. should stand charged with the yearly sum of two thousand pounds, over and above the eight thousand pounds applied by the former statute. It was also enacted, that, as the fund for raising the four per cent. interest on the Orphans' capital stock, had produced a very large surplus (including the sum of twenty-one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five pounds seventeen shillings and nine pence, due from the citizens to the said fund); to make good the yearly sum of two thousand pounds, which ought to have been raised on their personal estates, this surplus should be applied to pay off the principal sum of the Orphans' debt.

Soon after the obtaining of this act, a committee was appointed to deliberate on the discharge of the Orphans' debt, and to consider what savings might be necessary, to enable the citizens to pay the additional sum of two thousand pounds per annum, to this fund, which was to commence at Michaelmas, 1750. This committee reported, that, in order to discharge the Orphans' debt, it would be necessary to borrow the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds; which was agreed to by the court of common-council, who empowered the committee to treat for the loan, at three pounds six shillings per cent. interest. From the sum thus borrowed, the chamberlain, on the 20th of June, 1751, was ordered to discharge the above sum of twenty-one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five pounds seventeen shillings and nine pence, due to the fund from the city, and place it to the credit of the Orphans' fund, in discharge of the debt. In conformity to the terms of the before-mentioned statute, the corporation, from that time, constantly raised the sum of two thousand pounds per annum.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Surplus of the Guildhall Subscription.—Dreadful Fire.—Act of Common-council for regulating the Election of Sheriffs.—-The Bottle Conjuror.—Peace proclaimed.—Magnificent Fire-works.—Riot.—-Instance of the Efficacy of the Civil Power.—-Regulations respecting the Employment of foreign Journeymen.—Earthquakes.-—Predicted Recurrence of them.—Gaol Distemper.—British Fishery Society.—-Trials respecting the Tin-plate Workers, and opening the Port of London.—Case of Elizabeth Canning.—Deaths of Lord Mayors.—Dissenters refuse to serve the Office of Sheriff.—-Opposition to the Payment of Toll by Freemen.—Borough Market removed.—City Militia called out.—Act of Parliament for building Black-friars Bridge.—French Hostilities.—General Discontent.—Change of Ministry.—Act to regulate the Fishery on the Thames.—-Temporary wooden Bridge burnt.—French Colours hung up in St. Paul's, and Ordnance deposited in the Tower.—-Subscription for raising Soldiers.—-Successful Campaign.—Improvements in the City.—Sale of the Gates.—Reduction of Canada.—Death of George II.

On the 28th of January, 1748, the subscribers to the Guildhall subscription, for the encouragement of the soldiers employed in suppressing the late rebellion, held a general meeting; when it appeared that the surplus then remaining in the hands of the committee, amounted to three thousand three hundred pounds; which sum was disposed of to public charities, in the following manner:

		£.
To St. Bartholomew's Hospital	-	1000
St. Thomas's Hospital	- -	1000
Hospital at Bath	- - -	1000
London Infirmary	- - -	100
Westminster Infirmary	- - -	100
Infirmary at Hyde-park Corner	-	100
		3300

In the morning of the 25th of March, a fire broke out in Exchange-alley, which, notwithstanding a plentiful supply of water, and every possible assistance, consumed one hundred and eighteen houses, before noon. Four lives were lost, and the property destroyed was valued, by the lowest computation, at upwards of two hundred thousand pounds. A contribution was immediately set on foot for the relief of the uninsured sufferers, who were objects of charity; whose claims amounted to eight thousand pounds; the sum collected on this occasion was five thousand seven hundred and seventy-four pounds nineteen shillings and four pence; the whole of which was divided among the claimants. For the more expeditious re-building of the houses destroyed by this accident, the common-council permitted as many non-freemen as might be found necessary, to be employed in the work.

At a court of common-council, held the 7th of April, a bill passed for repealing all former acts of that court, touching the nomination and election of sheriffs of the city of London and county of Middlesex, and for regulating such nominations and elections for the future; in which it was ordained, that the right of electing persons to the office of sheriffalty, shall be vested in the liverymen, and that the general election day shall be the 24th of June, except it be Sunday, and then on the following day. That the person or persons elected to the said office, shall take the same upon him or them on the vigil of St. Michael the archangel, next following the said election, and hold the same for and during the space of one whole year, from thence next ensuing, and no longer, when some other persons shall be duly elected, and sworn into the same office in their stead. That, at the general elections for sheriffs, all the aldermen, who have not served, shall be put in nomination, according to their seniority, before any commoner. That the lord mayor may, between the 14th day of April, and the 14th day of June, in every year, nominate, in the court of lord mayor and aldermen, nine persons, free of this city, who shall be put in nomination for the said office, before any other commoner, and in the same order as nominated by the lord mayor. That, if any so nominated shall, within six days after notice, pay four hundred pounds to the chamberlain, and twenty marks towards the maintenance of the ministers of the several prisons, together with the usual fees, every such person shall be discharged from serving the said office, except he shall afterwards take upon him the office of an alderman. That any two liverymen, having a right to vote at the election of sheriffs, may nominate any person, free of the city, for the said office. That no freeman shall be discharged from such election or nomination, for insufficiency of wealth, unless he voluntarily swears himself not worth fifteen thousand pounds, in lands, goods, and separate debts, and the same be attested upon oath, by six other freemen of credit and reputation. That every person elected shall, at the next court of lord mayor and aldermen, give one thousand pounds bond to the chamberlain, that he will take upon him the said office, on the 28th of September next following. That the person elected, who does not give bond to serve, shall, if an alderman, or commoner, of the lord mayor's nomination, forfeit and pay six hundred pounds; but, if nominated by liverymen, he shall forfeit and pay only four hundred pounds, to be recovered by action of debt, in the name of the chamberlain of London, and to be applied to the use of the lord mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, subject to the orders and resolutions of the court of common-council; except one hundred pounds to each of the new sheriffs, if two fines happen to be paid, or fifty pounds to each of the said sheriffs, should there be only one fine paid. That no person who has fined shall be ever after eligible, except he takes upon him the office of an alderman; neither shall any person be compelled to serve the said office more than once.

The year 1749 was remarkable for one of the most extraordinary impositions that credulity ever countenanced. About the middle of January, an advertisement appeared in the newspapers, informing the public, that, on the 16th instant, a person would appear at the new theatre in the Haymarket, who, after playing the music of every instrument in use, upon a cane belonging to any of the spectators, would walk into a common quart bottle, placed upon a table in the middle of the stage, in sight of the audience, and would sing in it; and, during his stay in the bottle, any person might examine it, and be satisfied that it was a common wine bottle. Some other feats were to be exhibited, equally entertaining; and, although it might be supposed impossible that mankind, even in a state of gross ignorance, could be so egregiously imposed upon, yet it is unquestionably true, that the scheme did take effect in the British capital, and in the middle of the eighteenth century. On the evening of the exhibition, the house was crowded with the nobility and gentry of both sexes, who sat very patiently for a considerable time, without the amusement of a single fiddle: at length the audience grew tired and clamorous; and a fellow came from behind the curtain, and, bowing, said, if the performer did not appear, the money should be returned: at the same time, some person in the pit called out, that, if the ladies and gentlemen would give double price, the conjuror would get into a pint bottle. This was the signal for a riot: the greater part of the audience hurried out of the theatre, with the loss of cloaks, hats, wigs, and swords; part remained behind, who, being joined by the mob from without, tore up the benches, broke the scenes, pulled down the boxes, and entirely demolished the inside of the theatre; all of which they carried into the street, preceded by the curtain, fastened to a pole, as a flag of triumph; where they converted them into a large bonfire. A strong party of the guards was sent for, but did not arrive in time to save any part of the property. No material injury was sustained by any of the spectators, from the confusion in the house.

The treaty of peace with France and Spain, which had been long in agitation, being concluded, it was proclaimed in London, on the 2d of February; but so little pleasing were the conditions of it to the citizens, that their congratulations to his majesty were added to an address on the safe delivery of the Princess of Wales.

The peace was celebrated on the 29th of April, by a more magnificent display of fireworks than had ever been seen in this country. The machine which contained them was placed in the Green-park, and represented a magnificent temple, adorned with statues, paintings, and inscriptions. The number of fireworks played off, amounted to upwards of thirty-two thousand.

Some sailors having been ill treated by women of the town, in a house near the New-church in the Strand, a considerable body of them assembled, on the evening of the 1st of July, armed with cutlasses and bludgeons, and proceeded to the house, where they destroyed all the furniture and wearing apparel, and turned the women into the street. On the following night, they attacked two more houses in the same manner, and, the third day, made a similar attempt upon one in the Old Bailey, from which the owners had previously removed the goods, from an apprehension of their design. It was, at last, found necessary to call in the assistance of the military, to suppress these dangerous proceedings; and several of the rioters were apprehended and committed for trial.

This was followed by a circumstance, which proves that the firmness and temper of a civil magistrate may frequently render the interposition of the military unnecessary. Fifteen criminals were ordered for execution on the 18th of October, among whom was one Bosavern Penlez, a young man, convicted of being concerned in the riot in the Strand. A rescue being apprehended in favour of Penlez, a party of foot-guards attended at Holborn-bars, to guard the prisoners to Tyburn: but Mr. Sheriff Janssen, for the dignity of the city and his office, mounted on horseback, when the criminals were put into the carts at Newgate; and, having provided a sufficient guard of the civil power, very genteelly dismissed the officer and his men at Holborn, and conducted the malefactors to the place of execution without their assistance. A great number of sailors, armed with bludgeons and cutlasses, attended at the gallows, and became very clamorous, from an apprehension that the body of Penlez would be delivered to the surgeons; but Mr. Janssen assuring them it should not, they were pacified, and the criminals were executed without the least obstruction.

This year finished with a remarkable cause tried in the lord mayor's court, between a club of journeymen free painters, plaintiffs, and Mr. Row, citizen and master painter, defendant, for employing a person, not free, to work for him in the city. The defendant pleaded, and made it appear, by evidence, that, from the want of free journeymen of the trade, it was not possible for the summer business of the city to be done, without the assistance of at least an equal number of non-freemen; and that no freeman was ever refused, or could sometimes be got, on any terms. To which the counsel for the plaintiffs replied, with a very learned argument upon a by-law, made by the city in the reign of Queen Anne. The jury went out, at two o'clock in the afternoon, and returned twice, without agreeing on their verdict; and being sent out again, and continuing a long time, the court ordered them to be locked up in the room, without fire, candle, or any sustenance, by an officer sworn to observe the same, and to attend them; in which situation they continued till six o'clock next morning, when they brought in a verdict for the plaintiffs.

The masters of the several handicraft trades, finding themselves greatly aggrieved by this verdict, petitioned the common-council for liberty to employ foreigners, under certain restrictions. This produced a counter-petition from the journeymen; the consideration of which was deferred till the 8th of February, when a committee of six aldermen and ten commoners met to adjust these disputes. At this meeting, a day was appointed for hearing deputations from the masters and journeymen, and, after several adjournments, the committee reported their opinion to the court; who, on the 28th of November, resolved, that the court of lord mayor and aldermen be empowered to grant permission to any freeman, who could not procure a sufficient number of free journeymen, to employ foreigners, provided he has one apprentice, or has had one within twelve months before making application for the licence; and, in case no court of lord mayor and aldermen is held, the lord mayor may, on any Tuesday, grant such licence, for a term not exceeding six weeks. A power is, however, reserved to the court of lord mayor and aldermen.

men to revoke any licence, though the time for which it is granted be not expired.

On the 8th of February, 1750, between twelve and one o'clock at noon, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt through the cities of London and Westminster, and parts adjacent; and, on the 8th of March, between five and six in the morning, the town was alarmed with another shock, much more violent, and of longer continuance than the first. Many people, awakened from their sleep by it, ran terrified into the streets without their clothes; a great number of chimnies were thrown down, several houses were considerably damaged; and, in Charter-house square, a woman was thrown from her bed, and her arm broke. The panic of the people in consequence of these earthquakes was greatly increased by the ridiculous prediction of a wild enthusiastic soldier in the life-guards, who boldly prophesied, that as the second earthquake had happened exactly four weeks after the first, there would be a third exactly four weeks after the second, which would lay the whole cities of London and Westminster in ruins. Though this prognostication appears too ridiculous to merit the least attention, yet it produced the most astonishing effect on the credulous and already terrified people. A day or two before the expected event, multitudes of the inhabitants abandoned their houses and retired into the country; the roads were thronged with carriages of persons of fashion; and the principal places within twenty miles of London were so crowded, that lodgings were procured at a most extravagant price.

On the evening preceding the dreaded 5th of April, most of those who staid in the city sat up all night; some took refuge in boats on the river, and the fields adjacent to the metropolis were crowded with people; all of whom passed the night in fearful suspense, till the light of the morning put an end to their apprehensions, by convincing them, that the prophecy they had been weak enough to credit, had no other basis than that of falsehood.

Although the predicted time was now elapsed, yet the terror of the people did not thoroughly abate till after the eighth day of the month, because the earthquakes had happened on the eighth day of the two former months. When this time also passed, their fears vanished, and they returned to their respective habitations. The false prophet, who had been the instigator of such general confusion among the people, was committed to a place of confinement.

In this year, the lord mayor, Sir Samuel Pennant, some of the aldermen, two of the judges, the under sheriff, and many of the lawyers who had attended the March sessions in the Old Bailey, most of the Middlesex jury, and a considerable number of the spectators died of the gaol distemper, caught from the prisoners. In consequence of this disaster, a machine was soon after put upon the top of Newgate, to supply it with fresh air, the prison was well cleansed, and every other precaution taken to preserve the health of the prisoners.

About this time his majesty's royal charter having passed the Great Seal for encouraging the British White Herring Fishery, and for incorporating certain persons of great wealth and distinction, by the name of "the Society of the Free British Fishery," for the term of twenty-one years, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the 25th of October (escorted by a party of horse-guards to Temple-bar), went in his state coach, attended by two others, in which were the lords of the bed chamber, his footmen and watermen walking before, to Fishmongers'-

hall, in Thames-street, to receive the charter of the British Herring Fishery Company, as governor thereof. His royal highness was received at the door of the hall by Mr. Alderman Bethel, president of the society, Mr. Alderman Janssen, vice president, Admiral Vernon, General Oglethorpe, and such of the society as were in town ; and afterwards by the master and court of assistants of the Fishmongers' company, in their gowns, who all waited on him to their parlour. His royal highness made a most gracious speech, in which he expressed his great regard for the prosperity of the city of London. After which, the fishery charter being read by the clerk of the Fishmongers' company, his royal highness wished all imaginable success to this national undertaking, and declared that he had the welfare of it extremely at heart. The clerk of the company then thanked his royal highness for the great honour done the society, and beseeched him, in the name of the company, to accept of the freedom thereof; and his royal highness being graciously pleased to accept of the same, it was presented to him on the twenty-fifth, in a gold box of the most exquisite workmanship.

On the 22d of December, a proclamation was published by order of council, promising one hundred pounds over and above all other rewards, for the discovering and apprehending any offender, who, since the 20th of September, has committed, or before the 20th of December, 1751, shall commit, any murder or robbery by violence, or make an assault with offensive weapons with intent to rob, in any of the streets of London, or within five miles of the city.

In the beginning of the year 1751, a cause was tried at Hicks's Hall, between the tin-plate workers and one Milton, whom they indicted upon the statute of Queen Elizabeth, for exercising their art and mystery, not having served a regular apprenticeship to the same. The verdict was given for Milton, because the tin-plate workers were not incorporated till many years after the enacting that statute.

On the 22d of October a cause was heard before the lord mayor and court of aldermen, about laying open the port of London for bringing in foreign oats, pursuant to a statute, 1, James II. empowering that court, in April and October, to determine the common market prices of middling English corn, by the oaths of two substantial persons of Middlesex and Surrey, being neither merchants, cornfactors, mealmen, nor factors for importing corn, nor interested in the corn, and each having a freehold estate of twenty pounds, or a leasehold estate of fifty pounds, per annum, and by such other ways as to them shall seem fit; and if the same shall appear to be above sixteen shillings a quarter, they are to certify the same, with the two oaths annexed, to the commissioners of the customs, to be hung up in the custom-house. The persons that made the application were several masters of livery-stables, and inn-keepers, and their opponents were the cornfactors. After a hearing, which lasted ten hours, it was decided for the cornfactors, five aldermen being for laying open the port, and five, with the lord mayor, who threw in his casting vote, against it.

On the 4th of June, 1752, Thomas Winterbottom, Esq. Lord Mayor of London, died in his mayoralty, and was succeeded by Robert Alsop, Esq.

A subject of an extraordinary nature occurred in the beginning of the year 1753. A young woman, named Elizabeth Canning, pretended that, on the 1st of January, as she was returning home at night, she was attacked under Bedlam-wall by two men, who robbed her of part of her cloaths, gagged her, and dragged her along to the house of one Wells, near Enfield Wash, where she was confined in a cold damp room for a month, without any sustenance but a few stale crusts of bread and about a gallon of water; but that having at last made her escape out of a window, she returned almost naked to her mother, who lived near Moorfields.

The story, notwithstanding its improbability, operated so powerfully on the passions of many, even of the best informed classes, that large subscriptions were raised for the prosecution of the supposed delinquents; and the mistress of the house at Enfield, her servant, and an old gipsey-woman, whom Canning charged with having robbed her of her stays, were apprehended and tried. Wells was acquitted of the felony, but was punished as a bawd. Hall, the servant, being intimidated by the magistrate who examined her, turned evidence for Canning; and Squires, the gipsey, was convicted of the robbery, though she produced the most convincing evidence that she was at Abbotsbury, in Dorsetshire, on the night it was said to have been committed. During the course of the trial, Canning and her witnesses contradicted themselves in many particulars, but the prepossession in her favour was so great that the most palpable falsehoods advanced by her and her adherents were admitted as incontrovertible truths, while the witnesses for Squires were either so overawed by the rabble that they durst not appear in court; or, if they had sufficient resolution to give evidence in her favour, were insulted in such a manner that their lives were sometimes endangered.

Sir Crispe Gascoigne, who was at this time Lord Mayor of London, conducted himself in this affair with the greatest justice and impartiality. Considering the improbability of the charge, and the heat, passion, and furious zeal, with which it was prosecuted; and, being convinced of the old woman's innocence by a great number of affidavits, voluntarily sent up from the country by persons of undoubted veracity, he, in conjunction with some other worthy citizens, determined to oppose the torrent of popular prejudice. Application was made to the throne for mercy. The affair was referred to the attorney and solicitor-general, who, having examined the witnesses on both sides, made their report in favour of Squires, who was first respited, and afterwards received his majesty's free pardon.

A bill of indictment was preferred by the lord mayor against Elizabeth Canning for perjury. Her friends did the like against the witnesses from Abbotsbury in favour of Squires. The Abbotsbury people appeared; but no evidence coming against them, they were acquitted. Canning, being admitted to bail, at first absconded, but afterwards surrendered to take her trial, which continued by adjournment five days; when she was convicted of perjury, and committed to Newgate.

When she was brought up to receive sentence, a new trial was moved for on the affidavit of two of the jurors, who swore, that although they believed her guilty of perjury, they did not believe it to be wilful and corrupt. The decision of this point was put off till the next sessions; and, on the 30th of May, 1754, it was adjudged by five judges then on the bench, that the verdict was good, and agreeable to evidence. After which the court passed judgment that she should suffer one month's imprisonment, and then be transported for seven years.

Her supporters, however, made such diligent applications in her favour that they obtained permission for her to transport herself, and she went to America, in a private ship, with every accommodation money could procure her, and means were used to secure her a favourable reception at her arrival.

So truly sensible were the citizens of London of the rectitude of Sir Crispe Gascoigne's conduct in this affair, that at the expiration of his mayoralty, thanks were voted to him by the common-council "for his steady perseverance in the cause of justice; his generous protection of the distressed, and his remarkable humanity."

Sir Crispe Gascoigne was succeeded in his office of lord mayor by Edmund Ironside, Esq. who was so ill with the gout at the time of his being sworn into office, that he was obliged to be carried to the Exchequer in a sedan chair, and died on the 27th of November. He was the fifth lord mayor who died in his mayoralty from the year 1740; and it is remarkable that, from the institution of the office until that year, a period of five hundred and fifty-one years, such an event had only occurred six times.

On the election for sheriffs, in the year 1754, George Streatfield and Alexander Sheafe, Esqs. were chosen by a considerable majority, but being called upon to give bond to serve the office, they declined it, and gave answer to the court of aldermen, by their attornies, that, being protestant dissenters, they had not, within a year of the election, taken the sacrament, according to the rites of the church of England, and therefore dared not to take upon them that office, in defiance of the act, 13 Car. II. Stat. 2, Cap. I. In consequence of this a common-hall was summoned to choose other two; who, choosing Allan Evans, a protestant dissenter, he likewise pleaded the same excuse. The court of common-council therefore, on the 26th of September, ordered that actions should be brought against all those gentlemen, for the penalties incurred by their refusing to serve the office of sheriff; and a committee was appointed to see the said prosecutions executed.

A cause was tried, in Michaelmas term, in the court of King's-bench, Guildhall, on an action brought by Mr. Richard Holland, a leather-seller, in Newgate-street, against the collectors of toll, in Smithfield, during the time of Bartholomew-fair; when Mr. Holland's witnesses were examined; but no person appearing on the other side, a verdict was given in favour of Mr. Holland, on fifteen issues, with costs of suit. By which determination, all the citizens of London are exempted from paying toll at the said fair for the future.

In support of the ancient privilege of the citizens of London, to be exempt from toll for their goods, throughout all England, Mr. Holland had also applied for, and obtained, a certificate, from the lord mayor and court of aldermen, in the mayoralty of Sir William Calvert, by which the privilege of exemption was not only allowed to him, but extended to every freeman of the city of London.

The public-spirited example of this gentleman was immediately followed by the freemen residing in the several markets of the city, who determined to oppose the oppressive demands of the farmers of them, in exacting toll. In consequence of this determination, twelve different actions were brought by the farmers of Newgate-market, against the housekeepers around it, for refusing to pay the toll they had been accustomed to demand and receive; and in July, 1754, one of the issues was tried in the court of Common-pleas, at Guildhall, and the plaintiffs were nonsuited; ever since which, the people have continued free and unmolested.

An act of parliament was passed, on the 20th of March, 1755, to prevent the holding of a market in the Borough High-street; which was soon followed by another, on the petition of the inhabitants of Southwark, to hold a market on a spot of ground, west of the high-street, called the Triangle.

On the 15th of November, the secretary of war sent an order to the court of aldermen, acquainting them, that the motions of the French indicated an intention of invading England, and that, therefore, the militia must hold themselves in readiness to march. In consequence of this, a court of lieutenancy was immediately summoned to carry the said order into execution; who, on the 20th, directed the six regiments to be exercised in the Artillery-ground, by divisions of four companies each day.

At a court of common-council, held the 18th of December, the petition for a new bridge at Blackfriars, which had been prepared by the committee appointed for that purpose, was agreed to by a majority of thirty-four; and Mr. Sheriff Whitehead was ordered to present the same to the house. This petition was accordingly presented, on the 13th of January following; and an act of parliament was soon after passed for that purpose. By this act, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, were directed to form the said bridge in such a manner, as that there should remain a free and open passage for the water, through the arches, of seven hundred and fifty feet, at least, within the banks of the river; and that no buildings, except the proper gates and toll-houses, be erected thereon. The said mayor, &c. were empowered to make, widen, and enlarge, such streets, ways, and passages, as they should think necessary, to and from the said bridge, and to agree with the owners and occupiers of such lands, tenements, or hereditaments, as they should think proper to be purchased, removed, or pulled down, for that purpose. The act also provided, that a proper number of lamps be fixed on the said bridge, and a number of watchmen appointed for the safety of passengers. And, to defray the expenses attending the completion of this undertaking, the mayor, &c. were empowered, after the bridge should be finished, to appoint a toll, not exceeding a rate specified, and to borrow any sum, not exceeding thirty thousand pounds per annum, upon the credit of the tolls, until the whole sum of one hundred and sixty thousand pounds be raised, to be applied to the purposes of this act.

The king having informed both houses of parliament, that he had received repeated advices of the military preparations made in the various ports of France, and that there was great reason to suspect the French intended to invade England or Ireland, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented an address to his majesty, on the 6th of April, in which they assured him of their loyal affection, and their determined resolution to exert themselves to the utmost of their abilities, in support of his person and government.

The designs of the French were soon manifested by a descent upon Minorca; the intelligence of which no sooner arrived, than war was declared, on the 18th of May, at the usual places, and with the accustomed ceremonies.

This period produced the institution of the Marine Society, by the voluntary association of several merchants and others; at the head of whom was Mr. Jonas Hanway, a gentleman ever active in schemes for the public good.

The general discontent of the people, at the loss of Minorca, was greatly increased by the ministry bringing in a number of Hanoverian troops, to protect and defend the country from the French; and produced an address to his majesty, from the citizens of London, in which they represent the evils brought on the state by the negligence or incapacity of his ministers, and call for justice upon the authors of them. Similar addresses were presented from most of the other corporations and counties in the kingdom.

His majesty, to convince the people how desirous he was of pursuing such measures as might be satisfactory to them, as well as consistent with the government of his kingdom, ordered the Hanoverian troops to withdraw to their own country, and admitted the expediency of a national militia. He likewise appointed the Rt. Hon. Henry Bilson Legge, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and, on the 4th of December, 1756, he dismissed Mr. Fox, and delivered the seals to the Rt. Hon. William Pitt, making him Secretary of State and prime Minister. These appointments gave the highest satisfaction, not only to the citizens of London, but to all those who were well-wishers to their country; and produced such measures as intirely restored the king to the confidence of his subjects. This event produced the militia bill, which is considered as a barrier of the people's liberty against ministerial power; and the interest of the nation became the touchstone of every measure proposed by the administration.

But this satisfactory state of affairs was of short duration: the administration, finding their unwise measures opposed by the two favourites of the nation, and, dreading their integrity, prevailed on his majesty to dismiss them from their places, which was done on the 9th of April, 1757.

This revolution was no sooner known, than the whole nation seemed to rise up as one man in their favour, and the people took every means they could devise to testify their respect for them. The city of

London led the way; and, on the 15th of April, in a court of common-council, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, to present each of them with the freedom of the city of London, in a gold box, of the value of one hundred guineas.

An act of parliament was passed in this year, to regulate the fishery in the river Thames, and for the more speedy punishment of offenders, by which the lord mayor and aldermen are empowered to make rules and ordinances, from time to time, for the government of all persons concerned in that fishery.

On the 11th of April, 1758, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock at night, a temporary wooden bridge, built for the convenience of carriages and foot-passengers, while London-bridge was widening and repairing, was entirely consumed by fire.

His majesty having been pleased to order, that the colours taken from the French at Louisburgh, should be hung up in St. Paul's cathedral, they were escorted from Kensington to the west door of the church, with great military pomp, on the 6th day of September; and, on the 16th, the cannon and mortars, taken at Cherburgh, passed through the city, in grand procession, and were deposited in the Tower of London.

The power of the enemy in Germany being very considerable, and continual recruits wanted to supply the great draughts of men necessary to be made from England, to defeat their designs, the lord mayor summoned a court of common-council to meet on the 14th of August, 1759, when his lordship informed the court, that he had called them together to deliberate on a proposition of great consequence to the service of their king and country, and hoped that the result would be such as should do honour to the city, by proving the sincerity of their professions to his majesty.

In consequence of his lordship's proposition, the court, among other considerations, resolved and ordered, that voluntary subscriptions should be received, in the chamber of London, to be appropriated as bounty-money, to such persons as should enter into his majesty's service; and that the city subscribe one thousand pounds for this purpose.

This subscription met with such universal encouragement, that, from an account published at the time, it appears, that the money subscribed amounted to seven thousand and thirty-nine pounds seven shillings; and the number of men enlisted, to one thousand two hundred and thirty-five.

The successes of the year 1759 were many and great; but the last of them, the conquest of Quebec, was considered of such importance, that, immediately on receipt of the intelligence of it, a court of common-council was called, and an address to his majesty unanimously voted, expressive of their great satisfaction; in which, after enumerating the advantages gained in the course of the year, they describe them as events, such as will for ever render his majesty's auspicious reign the favourite æra in the history of Great Britain.

The year 1760 offers a memorable instance of the strict impartiality of the British laws. Earl Ferrers, from motives which never clearly appeared, had murdered his steward; for which he was tried and convicted before the House of Lords, and received sentence of death; and, on the 5th of May, he was hanged at Tyburn, and his body delivered to the surgeons, to be anatomized. Neither the plea of insanity, nor his rank, nor his alliance with royalty, could produce the slightest deviation from that equal justice, which is administered to all ranks; and he suffered the same punishment, in the same place, as a murderer of the lowest class of the community.

Several plans having been presented to the committee appointed for managing the new bridge to be erected at Black-friars, they at length gave the preference to Mr. Mylne, a Scots architect; and the first pile for the bridge was driven in the middle of the river, on the 7th of June, 1760.

At a court of common-council, held the 17th of the same month, the committee of the city lands were empowered to put in execution an act of parliament, passed the last sessions, for widening and improving the several streets in the city; and, at the same time, they directed an opening to be made, as soon as possible, from the east end of Crutched-friars into the Minories.

Among other regulations under the said act, it was thought proper to pull down the city gates; in consequence of which, the said committee sold Aldgate for one hundred and seventy-seven pounds ten shillings; Cripplegate for ninety-one pounds, and Ludgate for one hundred and forty-eight pounds; to be pulled down, and taken away by the purchaser, within a limited time. The statue of Queen Elizabeth, which stood on the west side of Ludgate, was purchased by Alderman Gosling, and set up against the east end of St. Dunstan's church, in Fleet-street.

On the 18th of October, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, again waited on his majesty with a congratulatory address, on the completion of the conquest of Canada, by the reduction of Montreal. But, while the people were exulting in the success of the British arms, and mutual professions of loyalty, confidence, and protection, appeared between the king and his subjects, particularly the citizens of London, a gloom was thrown over their happiness, by the sudden death of the king; who expired on the morning of the 25th of October, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and thirty-fourth of his reign.

CHAP. XL.

Accession of his present Majesty.—-Lord Mayor sworn in privately.—-Right of the City to the Tolls of Markets tried.—The Freedom of the City not to be voted without previous Notice.—Discontents in consequence of the Rise in Porter.--Honours bestowed on Mr. Onslow.--Marriage of the King.—Coronation.—Instructions to the City Representatives.—Vote of Thanks to Mr. Pitt.—Their Majesties entertained at Guildhall.—-Cock-lane Ghost.—-New Pavements.—Dissenters relieved from being called on to serve the Office of Sheriff.—Birth of the Prince of Wales.—Flood.—Peace proclaimed.—Cyder Act.—Riot in the Savoy.—-Apprehension and subsequent Discharge of Mr. Wilkes.—-Accident on Tower-hill.—-Dreadful Storm.—Riot on burning the North Briton.—Mr. Wilkes quits the Kingdom.

Perhaps no prince ever received the reins of government under more happy circumstances, or amidst more universal applause from his subjects, than his present majesty. As soon as proper notice was given of the king's death, the privy council assembled, to give orders for proclaiming his successor; and next day the new sovereign was proclaimed, before Saville House, in Leicester-fields, in presence of the great officers of state, the nobility, the lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London, and a great number of persons of the first distinction; and the proclamation was repeated at the usual places in the metropolis, with the accustomed ceremonies, amidst the acclamations of a vast concourse of spectators.

On the 28th, the lord mayor and aldermen of London attended the king, at Leicester-house, with compliments of condolence and congratulation; an address was presented to him by the citizens, in their corporate capacity; as also another to the Princess Dowager of Wales, his mother. This example was followed by the merchants and traders of the city, the clergy of London and Westminster, and all the bodies politic and corporate in the three kingdoms.

The lord mayor's day happening this year on a Sunday, Sir Matthew Blackiston, the mayor elect, was not sworn into his office till the day following; when, on account of the recent death of the king, who was not yet interred, the usual ceremonies were omitted, and he went privately in his coach, attended by the aldermen, to be sworn into his office.

In the evening of the same day, the remains of his late majesty were removed from Kensington palace, where he died, to the prince's chamber, and there lay in state till the next night, when they were interred, with great funeral pomp, in the royal vault under Henry VIIth's chapel, in Westminster Abbey; his youngest son, the Duke of Cumberland, attending as chief mourner.

About this time, two causes were tried in the court of King's-bench, Guildhall, respecting the right of the city to take toll for provisions exposed to sale before houses in the markets. They were tried before a jury of non-freemen; and the parties in the first were, the citizens of London, plaintiffs, and Edward Smith and Ralph Twyford, salesmen, in Newgate market, defendants. The other parties were the same plaintiffs, and John Cope, a salesman, defendant, for the sale of provisions in White-hart-street, an avenue or passage leading to Newgate market. In each of these causes, the jury gave a verdict for the city; by which the citizens ultimately established their right to the tolls, not only in the markets, but also in the avenues or passages leading thereto.

At a court of common-council, held the 18th of February, 1761, a motion was made to present the freedom of the city to Sir John Philips, Bart. and George Cooke, Esq. members for Middlesex, for their singular services in supporting such resolutions of the city as required the aid and authority of parliament. As there had not been any previous intimation given to the members, that such a question would be moved, it was considered by many, as a motion intended to be carried by surprise, and was opposed, by some, with great warmth, as an irregular proceeding; but, on the question being put, it was carried by 38 against 33. The court, however, though they were not averse to the compliment bestowed on those gentlemen, determined to guard against any such hasty measure in future; and therefore unanimously resolved, that no person should have the freedom of the city presented to him, unless the motion was made at a court preceding that in which the question should be put.

Among the acts of parliament passed during this session, was one for laying an additional duty on strong beer. Loud clamours were excited by this tax among the class of labouring people, especially in the metropolis, where some few publicans attempted to raise the price double the amount of the tax; but, as they did not act in concert, those houses in which the experiment was made, were immediately abandoned by their customers. The streets resounded with the noise of vulgar discontent, which did not even respect the young sovereign; and, if the price of strong beer had been actually raised to the consumer, in all probability some dangerous tumult would have ensued.

The business of the session being brought to a close, the parliament was dissolved on the 20th of March, and writs were issued out for the election of a new one. Previous to this, Arthur Onslow, Esq. who had filled the chair of the House of Commons with great abilities and dignity, signified his intention of retiring from that station; on which occasion, the House addressed his majesty, to confer some mark of his royal favour upon him, for his great and eminent services, for the space of thirty-three years, and upwards; which the king complied with, by settling an annual pension of three thousand pounds upon him, for his own life and that of his son. And the court of common-council, desirous of testifying their high sense of the merits of this venerable patriot, voted him the freedom of the city: which was presented to him in a gold box, of the value of one hundred guineas.

A treaty of marriage having been concluded between his majesty and the Princess Charlotte Sophia, of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, the nuptials were solemnized by the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 18th of September, 1761, in the presence of the royal family, and the principal part of the nobility.

The whole nation united in testifying their joy on this occasion; the amiable character of the princess promising future felicity both to her royal consort and his subjects. On the 14th, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented their congratulations to the royal pair on their nuptials; as also to the Princess Dowager of Wales; which were graciously received by the royal parties. It was on this occasion that the common-council appeared in mazarine blue silk gowns, agreeable to an order of that court, made a short time before; which greatly contribute to heighten the solemnity and grandeur of their public appearance.

On the 22d, his majesty's coronation was performed in the Abbey-church, at Westminster, with the usual solemnities. Their majesties, and the princess dowager went, in the morning, through the park, from St. James's, in chairs, and their attendants in coaches, to Westminster-hall; from thence they walked, about twelve o'clock, in grand procession, to the Abbey. After the ceremony, which lasted six hours, they returned to the hall, where they dined most magnificently, in the presence of numberless spectators richly dressed. All the way of the procession was lined with crowded scaffolds, and the Abbey also was as full and splendid as possible. On the queen's entrance into the hall, three thousand wax tapers were all lighted in less than five minutes. The royal standard was hoisted at the Tower, the ships in the river displayed their flags, the streets were universally illuminated, and there was an entire stagnation of all sorts of business.

A little before the procession began, proceeded that of Her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, from the House of Lords, across Old Palace-yard, on a platform erected for that purpose, to the south-cross of Westminster Abbey. She was led by the hand by His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, dressed in white and silver. Her train, which was of silk, was but short, and her hair flowed down her shoulders in hanging curls.

The rest of the princes and princesses, her highnesses's children, followed in this order:

His Royal Highness Prince Henry Frederick, also in white and silver, handing his sister, the Princess Louisa Anne, dressed in a slip with hanging sleeves. Then His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William, in the same dress, handing his youngest sister, the Princess Caroline Matilda, dressed also in a slip with hanging sleeves.

The other persons who made up this procession were those who had not a right to walk with their majesties.

The procession was closed by three Mahometan ambassadors, in the proper dresses of their country, having turbans of fine muslin on their heads, and long gowns of flowered and laced silk; their sabres were crimson, and in each of them were enclosed a dagger and poniard,

The great diamond in his majesty's crown fell out in returning from the Abbey to Westminster-hall, but was immediately found and restored.

The nation in general, and the corporation of London in particular, being greatly discontented at the measures of the court, and particularly at the resignation of Mr. Pitt, whose conduct in administration they highly esteemed, the court of common-council, on the 22d of October, unanimously resolved to instruct the city members on the sense of the citizens respecting the present critical conjuncture. Accordingly, instructions were drawn up and delivered to the four members; the principal articles in which were: To endeavour at a repeal or amendment of the late act for the relief of insolvent debtors, in respect of the inconveniences arising from the compulsive clause (which was accordingly done by Stat. 2, Geo. III. cap. 2). To promote all necessary measures for the establishing good economy in the distribution of the national treasure: To oppose all attempts for giving up such places as might tend to lessen our present security, restore the naval power of France, and expose us to fresh hostilities; particularly to preserve our sole and exclusive right to our acquisitions in North America, and its fisheries; and lastly, to concur in prosecuting the war with the utmost vigour, so as to obtain a safe and honourable peace.

At the same time another motion was made, that the thanks of the court be given to the Right Hon. Mr. Pitt, for the many and important services rendered to his king and country. And a third motion was made, that the committee, in their thanks to Mr. Pitt, do lament his resignation, &c. These motions, with the exception of the last, on which there was a division, one hundred and nine being for it, and only fifteen against it, were unanimously carried in the affirmative.

According to ancient custom, the lord mayor who is first elected to that office after a coronation, invites the king, and queen, if there is one at the time, to dine at Guildhall on lord mayor's day. Sir Samuel Fludyer, being chosen to that office, had the honour of entertaining their majesties on this occasion. The ceremonial was conducted with the greatest magnificence, all ranks striving with each other to manifest their loyalty and attachment. The pageants and decorations were more pompous than had been on any former occasion; and the entertainment was elegant, sumptuous, and well conducted. His majesty and all the royal family expressed their entire approbation of it; and the nobility and foreign ministers acknowledged it to have been far beyond any they had ever seen.

At a court of common-council, held on the 18th of November, it was resolved that a statue of his majesty should be erected in the Royal Exchange; and that his picture, with that of the queen, should be put in Guildhall. Their majesties, having been acquainted with the intentions of the court, condescended to sit for their pictures, which were soon after placed over the hustings in Guildhall, and the statue of the king was placed beside that of his grandfather in the Exchange.

In the beginning of the year 1762, the inhabitants of London and Westminster were alarmed by an imposture of a singular nature, carried on in the house of one Parsons, clerk of the parish of St.

Sepulchre, and resident in Cock-lane, West Smithfield. His daughter, a girl of ten years of age, being tutored for the purpose, pretended to be visited by the spirit of a young woman who had formerly lived in the house, and had died about a year and a half before this period. This woman, who went by the name of Fanny, had lived with a Mr. Kent, a broker, who had been the husband of her sister, and would willingly have taken Fanny to wife, but this union being forbidden by the canon law, the parties agreed to dispense with the ceremonies of the church, and lived together until, to the great grief of her lover, she died of the small pox. Kent, it seems, had incurred the resentment of Parsons by pressing him for the payment of some money he had lent him: and this is supposed to have been the source of this diabolical contrivance. His daughter, who had been a favourite of Fanny's, pretended to see her spirit; she was seized with apparent fits and tremblings; strange noises of knocking, scratching, whispering, fluttering, &c. were heard in the presence of the girl; and a woman, who lived in the house and was an accomplice in the scheme, pretended to explain these different noises; all of which tended to show that she had been poisoned by her admirer. The circumstances of this strange visitation being reported, with many idle exaggerations, interested the public to such a degree, that nothing was talked of in all assemblies, from the highest to the lowest, but the Cock-lane ghost; to which there was a continual flux and reflux of people of all ranks: even some of the dignitaries of the church, lent a countenance to the fraud by joining in the superstitious throng who daily flocked to hear it. To such a height did this silly infatuation at length arrive, that all the suggestions of reason proved ineffectual to stop it: the most glaring inconsistencies were reconciled in support of the supernatural visitation, while the unfortunate object of it was universally detested as an infamous murderer; who, having robbed a poor girl of her innocence, and become satiated with her person, had consigned her to an untimely end. In vain he published the affidavits of the physician and apothecary who attended her in her last illness: in vain he availed himself of the testimony of those who were with her in her last moments, and saw the tender parting between her and the man whom her spirit was now supposed to impeach. The more pains he took in his own justification, the more deeply were the people impressed with the conviction of his guilt. Under this dreadful persecution, he had recourse to the protection of the law, by commencing a suit against the father of the child, an ecclesiastic who had been very instrumental in promoting the imposture, and some others who had been more or less active in ruining his reputation and fortune. They were indicted for a conspiracy, and tried before Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, who resisted an attempt that was made to prove that the visitation was supernatural. He treated such a supposition with the contempt it deserved, and pronounced the whole to be an infamous imposture, contrived and carried on to effect the ruin of an innocent person; and the jury before whom it was tried convicted all the parties of the conspiracy. Parsons was condemned to stand in the pillory three times in one month, and to be imprisoned for two years; his wife was imprisoned for one year; the woman who acted as interpreter was committed to Bridewell, to be kept to hard labour for six months, and the clergyman and another person who had been active in the transaction were dismissed with a severe reprimand, after having compromised the affair with the prosecutor, to whom they paid a considerable sum of money, as a reparation for the injury he had sustained.

In this session of parliament an act was passed for new paving the streets, and removing the posts and signs that had long been a blemish to the principal parts of this metropolis. The pavement, before, was exceedingly inconvenient, as well to foot passengers as those who were obliged to travel in the highway; but by virtue of this act, they were both altered, and the principal parts of the cities of London and Westminster were paved in the elegant as well as convenient manner in which they now appear.

A scheme had been projected to reduce the price of fish, by bringing it from distant ports to London and Westminster by land carriage. This scheme being laid before the parliament, an act was obtained for carrying it into execution; but, after having tried it for some years, the expenses were found to exceed the produce so greatly, that it was discontinued.

On the 5th of July came on at Guildhall, a cause which had been long depending between the city and the dissenters, concerning the eligibility and obligation of the latter to serve the office of sheriff; when, after several learned pleadings, the judges gave their opinion, that dissenters were not obliged to serve that office.—This determination was afterwards confirmed by the House of Lords.

On the 12th of August, 1762, about seven o'clock in the morning, her majesty was safely delivered of a prince, which event was immediately announced by a discharge of the Tower guns. Soon after her majesty was delivered, the waggons loaded with the treasure of the Hermione (a Spanish register ship, taken by the Active and Favourite, two English frigates) entered St. James's-street, in their way to the Tower; on which his majesty and the nobility went to the windows over the palace-gate, to see them, and joined their acclamations on two such joyful events. The waggons, twenty in number, were preceded by a company of light horse, with kettle-drums, trumpets, French horns, and hautboys. Each waggon was escorted by four marines, with bayonets fixed, and decorated with Spanish colours beneath those of England. The treasure was conveyed to the Bank, and was estimated at two millions two hundred and seventy-six thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars, besides other valuable effects.

On the 14th, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, waited on his majesty with a congratulatory address on the birth of a prince, who, on the 17th, was created Prince of Wales, &c. and, on the 11th of September following, was baptized by the name of George Augustus Frederic.

On the 27th of September, it appeared, that, by the rains which fell for some days past, a high tide in the river Thames, and a strong gale of wind at north, the rivers within twenty miles of London were so raised, that the like had never been known in the memory of man; and the damage that was sustained, more especially on the river Lea, was almost incredible. In less than five hours, the water rose twelve feet in perpendicular height. About Stratford, West Ham, Plaistow, Waltham Abbey, and along the marshes, they were very fatal to the inhabitants. Most of their cattle in the fields were carried off; likewise stacks of hay and wood, with the loss of the hogs that were in their sties and yards, together with all the horses that were in the stables.

In some parts of Stratford, the flood reached the chamber windows, and the face of the waters was covered with the bodies of the beasts that perished. From the nearest computation that could be made, not less than five thousand hogs perished in this flood, together with all the horses and other cattle that were in the meadows, whose numbers were very considerable. The flood extended itself over all the causeways, and several people were lost in the high roads: a woman and horse, and a gentleman in a post-chaise, with the horses and post-boy, all perished in the water; and three of the passengers in the Bury machine, with two of the horses, were also drowned. The china-works, beyond Bow-bridge, were overflowed in such a manner, that the current rushed through the great arch, like the tide through the arches of London-bridge. The calico grounds, in the neighbourhood of Bow and Stratford, were overflowed, and great quantities of linen carried off. The houses, from Bow-bridge to Stratford, were under water, and the inhabitants were compelled to take refuge by getting out of their windows.

The negotiations for peace, which had been some time in hand, having been brought to an issue, the secretary of state sent, on the 8th of November, to inform the lord mayor, that the preliminaries of pacification were signed on the 3d instant; in consequence of which, a cessation of arms was proclaimed at London, on the 1st of December; and, on the 22d of March, 1763, the definitive treaty, which had been signed at Paris, on the 10th of February, was proclaimed at the usual places in London; but so dissatisfied were the citizens with the terms of it, that the common-council could not be prevailed on to address; and that which was obtained from the aldermen, was carried up by eight of that body, with a locum tenens at their head.

There being a bill at this time depending in the house, not only for granting additional duties on wine, cyder, and perry, but also to subject the makers of those articles to the excise laws, the court of common-council, on the very day that peace was proclaimed, resolved to petition the House of Commons against it; and the next day they prepared instructions for their members to oppose this new attempt, "as being inconsistent with those principles of liberty which had hitherto distinguished this nation from arbitrary governments." In short, so strenuously did the citizens exert themselves to crush this destructive bill, that, on the 28th of March, they petitioned each branch of the legislature, separately, against it; notwithstanding which, it passed into a law. The bill, however, was found to be productive of such universal disturbance, not only in the cyder counties, but also throughout the kingdom, that it was first altered, and afterwards repealed.

On the evening of the 9th of April, a number of recruits, confined in the Savoy for the East India service, made an attempt to effect their escape, by divesting the centinels of their arms, and making themselves masters of the keys; but the guard at the barracks, being alarmed by the noise, arrived before they had got open the outer gate; when a dreadful fray ensued between the soldiers and the recruits, in which three of the latter were shot dead, and several others mortally wounded. One of the soldiers had his hand so shockingly shattered, that he was obliged to undergo immediate amputation.

We come now to an event, which, whatever heat and party rancour it might have generated at the time, was productive of such expositions of the genuine spirit of the British laws, as must convince the most sceptical that equal justice is administered to all ranks who live under them.

A rule for an information was granted by the court of King's-bench, against the author, printers, and publishers of a periodical paper, called the North

Briton, No. 45; which contained a severe commentary on the king's speech, at the close of the session of parliament, on the 19th of April.

John Wilkes, Esq. member of parliament for Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, was the gentleman pitched on as the supposed author of this performance. A warrant was therefore issued by Lord Halifax, secretary of state, for taking Mr. Wilkes, together with the printer and publisher, into custody. Accordingly, on the evening of the 29th of April, 1763, the messengers went to Mr. Wilkes's house for that purpose. On their entrance, he excepted to the generality of the warrant, as his name was not mentioned in it, and threatened the first who should offer violence to his person in his own house, at that unseasonable hour of the night, upon any pretended verbal order, which they might, or might not, have received for that purpose. Upon this, the messengers thought proper to retire, and defer the execution of their warrant till next morning; when they took him into custody, and carried him before the secretaries of state for examination.

On the intimation of this event, a motion was made in the court of Common-pleas, then sitting in Westminster-hall, for a *habeas corpus;* and, notwithstanding this was granted, Mr. Wilkes's papers were arbitrarily seized, and he himself was committed close prisoner to the Tower.

On the 3d of May he was brought to the bar of the court of Common-pleas, where he addressed himself to the judges, on the illegality and hardships of his commitment, in a very bold and animated speech. The case was then learnedly argued by eminent lawyers on both sides; but the court, after making a polite excuse to Mr. Wilkes for the delay, requiring farther time to consider of it, he was remanded to the Tower till the 6th of May, with orders that his friends and lawyers should have free access to him. In the mean time orders were given that Mr. Wilkes should no longer continue colonel of the militia for the county of Buckingham.

On the 16th of May Mr. Wilkes again attended in Westminster-hall; when, after another spirited address to the court, and many learned arguments on both sides, the Lord Chief Justice Pratt proceeded to give his opinion on the three following points, viz. The legality of Mr. Wilkes's commitment; the necessity for a specification of those particular passages in No. 45 of the North Briton, which had been deemed a libel; and his privilege as member of parliament. On the two first of these points his lordship determined that the commitment was not illegal; but, on the third, he declared that a libel did not come within any of the descriptions of offences which deprive a member of parliament of his privilege, and that, therefore, Mr. Wilkes must be discharged, in which opinion the rest of the court concurred.

A dreadful accident happened on Tower-hill, on the king's birth-day. Some grand fire-works were exhibited there, at the public expense, which drew such a concourse of people, that a railing which surrounded a well near the postern was broken down by the press, and a great number of the multitude fell to a depth of thirty feet; six of whom were taken up dead, fourteen more were so hurt that they died of their wounds, and many others were shockingly bruised.

On the 19th of August, about twelve o'clock at noon, began a dreadful storm of wind, rain, thunder and lightning, in this city, which was preceded by an almost total darkness. The air seemed greatly convulsed, and the heat, which was intense, was felt as if from an oven. The appearance of it being much like that described to have preceded the great earthquake at Lisbon, many people expected the most direful consequences would follow; but it happily went off, though much milder in the city of London than in many other places.

We shall now return to Mr. Wilkes. After his release from the Tower he caused a printing-press to be set up under his own direction, at his house in Great George-street, Westminster, where he advertised the proceedings of the administration, with all the original papers; and the North Briton was republished. In the mean time an information was filed against him in the court of King's-Bench, at his majesty's suit, as being author of the North Briton, No. 45; and, on the meeting of the parliament, a message was sent to the House of Commons with the information his majesty had received, that John Wilkes, Esq. a member of that house, was the author of a most seditious and dangerous libel. The examinations and proofs of the said libel, together with the measures that had been taken thereon, were also laid before the house: in consequence of which the North Briton, No. 45, was adjudged a false, scandalous, and seditious libel, and was ordered to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman.

On the 3d of December, the day appointed for putting this sentence in execution, such a prodigious multitude of people assembled at the Royal Exchange, that the officers were greatly interrupted in the performance of their duty. The mob began by pelting the hangman, constables, and inferior officers, nor did even the chief officers escape without being grossly insulted. Mr. Harley, the high sheriff, had the front glass of his chariot broken by a billet thrown at his person, which was taken from the fire kindled to destroy the North Briton. Mr. Harley, observing the spirit of licentiousness that prevailed among the people, retired, and hastened to the Mansion-house to inform the lord mayor of the danger. The executioner, thinking it his duty to follow the high sheriff, made his retreat likewise as soon as possible; and the constables, seeing the general confusion and timidity of the chief officers, mixed among the crowd and quietly marched off. The North Briton, however, was partly consumed by means of a lighted link on which it was placed; but the remains of it were rescued from the flames by the violence of the assailants, who carried them off in triumph, and in the evening displayed them at Temple-bar, where a bonfire was made, and a large jack-boot committed to the flames amidst the acclamations of a prodigious concourse of spectators.

This riot being reported to the two houses of parliament, they entered very seriously into the consideration of its consequences; and, after Mr. Alderman Harley had been examined by the lords, resolved, "that the rioters were perturbators of the public peace, dangerous to the liberties of the country, and obstructors of the national justice." At the same time, the two sheriffs received the thanks of both houses.

A complaint had been made to the House of Commons, by Mr. Wilkes, of a breach of their privilege, by the imprisonment of his person, the plundering of his house, the seizing of his papers, and the serving him with a subpœna upon an information in the court of King's-Bench, &c. Mr. Wilkes, however, not satisfied with this, commenced an action against Robert Wood, Esq. under-secretary of state, for seizing his papers. The cause was tried on the 6th of December, before Lord Chief Justice Pratt, and a special jury; when, after a hearing of near fifteen hours, many arguments on both sides, and a most masterly, pathetic, and eloquent charge, given by his lordship, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with one thousand pounds damages, and full costs of suit.

Some little time previous to this, notice had been given in the House of Commons that evidence was ready to be produced of Mr. Wilkes being the author of the obnoxious number of the North Briton; but as he was disabled from attending the House by a wound he had received in a duel with Mr. Martin, member for Camelford, it was ordered that his complaint of breach of privilege and this charge should be taken into consideration on a subsequent day; and the time for his appearance was afterwards enlarged on the report of his physician and surgeon; but beginning at last to suspect some collusion betwixt him and them, the House, on the 16th of December, made an order that Dr. Heberden and Surgeon Hawkins should attend the progress of his cure and report their opinion to the House. Mr. Wilkes, however, refused to admit them, intimating his most perfect reliance on the gentlemen to whom he had committed his case; but, either from the attention of the House, or, as he stated it, on account of the dangerous illness of his daughter, he took advantage of their adjournment for the Christmas holidays, and, on the 24th, suddenly set out for France.

CHAP. XLI.

Marriage of the Princess Augusta.—Proceedings relative to Mr. Wilkes.—Resolution of the Common-council against general Warrants.—Trial of a Broker for acting without a Licence.—Distressed Palatines.—A Bookseller pilloried for publishing the North Briton.—Silk-weavers' Petition.—Riots.—Dreadful Fire.—Incendiary Letters.—Offensive Address of the Citizens.—Fire in Bishopsgate-street.—Act for the Relief of the Silk-weavers.—City's Right to import Coals at a reduced Duty.—Subscription for the Relief of the Poor.—Gresham College sold to Government.—An Arch added to London-bridge water-works.—Execution of Mrs. Brownrigg.--Disturbance among the Weavers.--Salaries of the City Officers increased.—Severe Frost.—Mr. Wilkes elected Member for Middlesex.—Tumults in consequence.—Riots with the Coal-heavers.—Entertainment of the Prince of Monaco.—Mr. Wilkes committed to the King's-Bench Prison.—Tumults.—Riot at the King's-Bench Prison.—Battles between the Sailors and Coal-heavers.—The King of Denmark entertained at the Mansion-house.—Riot at the Middlesex election.—Institution of the Royal Academy.

On the 16th of January, 1764, the marriage of the Princess Augusta, the king's eldest sister, to the hereditary Prince of Brunswick Lunenburg, took place; on which occasion, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, attended his majesty, and the new married couple with their compliments of congratulation.

On the 20th of this month the House of Commons expelled John Wilkes, Esq. for a contempt of their authority, by withdrawing himself to a foreign country without assigning a sufficient cause; as also for publishing the North Briton, which had been adjudged an infamous libel; and a writ was issued out for electing another member for Aylesbury in his stead.

Although Mr. Wilkes was absent, yet, on the 21st of February, he was tried before Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, in the court of King's-Bench, Westminster, for republishing the North Briton, No 45, with notes, printed at his own house. The trial lasted eight hours, when the jury, after being out of the court some time, returned, and brought in their verdict guilty. He was then tried for printing a book called, An Essay on Woman, of which he was also found guilty.

At a court of common-council, held at Guildhall the same day, the thanks of the court were ordered to be presented to the representatives of the city, for their zealous and spirited endeavours to assert the rights and liberties of the subject, by their laudable attempt to obtain a seasonable and parliamentary declaration. "That a general warrant for apprehending and seizing the authors, printers, and publishers, of a seditious libel, together with their papers, is not warrantable by law;" and to exhort them, in the warmest manner, steadily to persevere in their duty to the crown, and use their utmost endeavours to secure the houses, papers, and persons of the subject from arbitrary and illegal violations. At the same time, it was resolved, that, "as the independency and uprightness of judges is essential to the impartial administration of justice, and one of the best securities to the rights and liberties of the subject," this court, in manifestation of the just sense of the firmness and integrity of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Pratt, lord chief justice of his majesty's court of common-pleas, doth direct, that the freedom of this city be presented to his lordship, and that he be desired to sit for his picture to be placed in Guildhall, in gratitude for the honest and deliberate decision upon the validity of a warrant which had been frequently produced to, but, so far as appears to this court, never debated in the court of King's-Bench, by which he hath eminently distinguished his duty to the king, his justice to the subject, and his knowledge of the law.

On the 27th of March, a cause was tried in the court of King's-Bench, against J. F. Silva, for acting as a stock-broker, without being admitted by the court of aldermen, when he was cast in penalties amounting to four hundred and fifty pounds.

During a dreadful thunder storm, which happened on the 18th of June, the spire of St. Bride's church was struck by lightning, and so much shattered, that it was obliged to be rebuilt.

In the month of August, about six hundred Palatines, and other German protestants, were landed at the port of London in the greatest distress. They had been induced to quit their own country, by a German officer, by a promise of settlements in America, with, as he stated, the concurrence of the British court. This promise he was unable to perform; and, as it afterwards appeared, no authority had been given to him to make any such agreement. On the arrival of these poor deluded people, they found themselves in a a strange country, without money or friends. Some who had the means of paying for their passage were permitted to land; but such as had not were kept on board the ships; and both were in a starving condition. In this deplorable state they experienced the benevolence of Britons: their case being made known to the public, by the Rev. Mr. Wachsel, minister of the German Lutheran church, in Ayliffe-street, a subscription was instantly opened for their relief; food, cloathing, and medical assistance, for their immediate necessities were supplied by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in which they were; tents, for their reception, were given by order of the king; and, in the end, they were sent by the government to South Carolina, with every thing necessary for them during the voyage, and proper means for their comfortable establishment on their arrival.

On the 14th of February, 1765, Mr. John Williams, bookseller, in Fleet-street, stood on the pillory, in New Palace-yard, Westminster, for re-publishing the North Briton in volumes. A few minutes after twelve he mounted the stage, amidst the acclamations of more than ten thousand people, who preserved an incessant shout during the whole time of his standing. The intention of the ignominy was greatly defeated by the populace, who testified their resentment by displaying a burlesque exhibition of a very singular, but intelligible, nature. They suspended, near the pillory, a large jack-boot, a Scots bonnet, and an ax; which having hung for some time, they chopped off the top of the boot, and, with great triumph, committed that and the bonnet to the flames; a fire having been prepared for that purpose.

A petition had been presented to both houses of parliament, in the beginning of the year, by the silk weavers, setting forth their distresses, occasioned by the importation of French manufactured silks, which they conceived had not met with sufficient attention. They, therefore, assembled in great numbers, on the 1st of May, accompanied by their wives and children, and, with a black flag carried before them, proceeded to St. James's, to represent their deplorable condition to the king; but the royal family being at Richmond, most of them went there, and, their petition being carried in, one of the lords in waiting brought them word from his majesty, that he would do all in his power for their relief. No riots happened on this day, but, on the 16th, a party of them went to the Duke of Bedford's house, in Bloomsbury-square, and denounced vengeance against him, for having, as they believed, obstructed the redress they petitioned for; however, a military force being sent to the place, they dispersed without doing any mischief. On the morning of the following day, they assembled again by beat of drum, and proceeded by three different routs to Westminster, where the multitude of them was so great, that it was with difficulty the members got to their respective houses. While they continued here, their deportment was orderly in the highest degree: no insult was offered to any member of either house; and, on being assured that their grievances should be attended to, and a proper redress granted them, the well-disposed part of them returned peaceably to their humble habitations. But this could not be expected to be the case with the whole of such a vast body; a part were still dissatisfied, and some were bent upon mischief: accordingly, on their way home, a body of this description made an attack upon Bedford House; to which, as well as to the pavement and railing of Bloomsbury-square, they did great mischief; and, though both horse and foot guards were on the spot, these outrages continued great part of the night. A house on Ludgate-hill was also attacked, but the spirited conduct of the magistrates of the city, aided by a strong body of soldiers, prevented any farther disorder than threats. These alarming proceedings were, however, put a stop to, by the management of the magistrates, and the assurances of the master weavers, that the importation of French silks would be discontinued, without any further damage, except the destruction of some windows belonging to those most obnoxious to them.

A dreadful fire broke out, on the 1st of June, in a mast-yard, near Rotherhithe church, which, in a few hours, destroyed two hundred and six houses, together with a brig and several lighters in the river; the wind carried the flames to a considerable distance, but luckily they were driven from the Thames, otherwise the consequence to the shipping must have been very fatal. These losses were computed at ten thousand pounds; but the unhappy sufferers, many of whom had not insured their property, were relieved by the munificence of the public, who raised such contributions as greatly exceeded the estimates of the claimants.

This, and many other fires which happened during the course of this year, appear to have been either produced, or greatly increased, if they occurred accidentally, by evil-minded persons; for, about this time, many incendiary letters were dropped in different parts of London, and several trains, laid for this desperate purpose, were discovered and defeated within a few weeks.

The birth of a prince, which happened in August, gave the citizens an opportunity of showing their disapprobation of the measures of government, by wording their customary address on such occasions, so as to imply their want of confidence in the then administration. It even became a question among the ministers, whether this address ought to be received; but, on mature consideration, it was thought proper to admit it, and the citizens were thanked as usual. The passage that gave offence was as follows: "Permit us, therefore, royal Sir, to assure your majesty, that your faithful citizens of London, from their zealous attachment to your royal house, and the true honour and dignity of your crown, *whenever a happy establishment of public measures shall present a favourable*

vourable occasion, will be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise councils, as apparently tend to render your majesty's reign happy and glorious."

At a court of common-council, held on the 22d of October, it was resolved to present five hundred pounds to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, uncle to his majesty, died suddenly, at his house in Upper Grosvenor-street, on the 31st of October. His royal highness being interred on the evening of the lord mayor's day, the customary ceremonies on the occasion were entirely laid aside, in conformity to a letter his lordship had received from the lord chamberlain, requesting that as little show might be made as possible. Accordingly, George Nelson, Esq. the new lord mayor, with the aldermen and recorder, went to Westminster, and back again, in a private manner, by land.

On the 7th of November, about three o'clock in the morning, a dreadful fire broke out at the house of one Rutland, a peruke-maker, in Bishopsgate-street, next door to the corner house, in Leadenhall-street. The wind being high, the flames spread to the corner house, and from thence to the opposite side; when these, for want of water and proper assistance, soon communicated to the other two, so that the four corner houses were all on fire at the same time. The house, which formed the corner of Gracechurch-street and Cornhill, was only damaged, but the other three were all destroyed; as were, also, all the houses from the corner of Cornhill, next Bishopsgate-street, to the church of St. Martin Outwich, at the corner of Threadneedle-street. The church and parsonage-house, as well as the back part of several houses in Threadneedle-street, were greatly damaged. All the houses in White-lion-court were entirely destroyed; among which was the White-lion-tavern, that had been bought but the evening before for between two and three thousand pounds. The back part of Merchant Taylors'-hall was greatly damaged: five houses on the Exchange side of Cornhill were entirely consumed, as were several others in Leadenhall-street. It was supposed, that, by this accident, near one hundred houses were destroyed or damaged; and the loss was computed at one hundred thousand pounds. Several lives were lost, not only by the fire, but by the falling of chimnies and walls. A gentleman, who ventured among the ruins next day, thinking that some persons might be still alive under the rubbish, waved his hat, to engage the attention of the spectators, and declared that he was sure many were actually under the spot on which he stood. Upon this, the fire-men went immediately to work with their pick-axes, and, on removing the rubbish, they drew out, alive, two men, three women, and a child about six years old. The following day, as some of the workmen were clearing away the rubbish from the cellar of one of the houses, a stack of chimnies suddenly fell down; by which accident eight persons were killed, and several others had their limbs crushed in a shocking manner.

Many of the sufferers by this fire not being insured, a subscription was opened for their relief, which soon produced three thousand pounds; one thousand of which was subscribed by his majesty. The Grocers and Ironmongers' company each subscribed one hundred pounds, and the lord mayor fifty pounds; a part of which was distributed among the unfortunate widows and children of the men who were killed by the falling of the stack of chimnies.

Though nothing could be done for the weavers, at the time they petitioned parliament, their case was not neglected; and, in the following session, a bill was passed for prohibiting the importation of foreign wrought silks and velvets, for a limited time. On the 14th of May, 1766, the day on which his majesty went to the House of Lords, to sign the bill, several thousand weavers, with their wives and children, marched through the city, with colours flying, drums beating, and music playing, to St. James's; from whence they attended his majesty to the House of Peers, and testified their joy and gratitude by loud and repeated acclamations.

At a court of common-council, held the 30th of July, the report of Mr. Recorder was read, touching the city of London's rights to import four thousand chaldrons of coals, for the benefit of the poor; by which opinion it appeared, the corporation are, by charter, entitled to that quantity, at one shilling per chaldron less duty than it is the custom to pay in the port of London.

On the 19th of November, the temporary bridge, which had been erected at Black-friars, was opened for foot-passengers; in consequence of which, the Sunday ferry, which had been carried on there, by the Watermens' company, for charitable purposes, was entirely stopped; as a recompense for which loss, the bridge committee transferred thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty pounds, consolidated three per cents. to the rulers of that company; the interest to be applied to the same uses as the profits received from the ferry had been.

At a court of common-council, held the 23d of January, 1767, it was unanimously resolved, that, on account of the distresses of the poor (which at that time were very great, occasioned by the inclemency of the season) one thousand pounds should be subscribed out of the chamber of the city; and that a subscription-book should be opened in the chamberlain's office, for the donations of all well-disposed persons; which money should be appropriated to the relief of such poor persons, inhabiting within the city and liberties, as did not receive alms of the parishes; and a committee was appointed, consisting of the lord mayor, and all the aldermen, and fifty-two commoners, who immediately withdrew, and began a subscription among themselves; to which the lord mayor gave one hundred pounds, and the rest of the gentlemen very liberally. By this noble plan great numbers of people were happily relieved from the most abject state of distress.

On the 17th of March, the city members, attended by Mr. Dance, the surveyor, waited on the lords of the treasury, with a plan of the ground on which Gresham college stood, for the purpose of pulling down that old building, and erecting an Excise-office in its stead. At a court of common-council, held on the 22d of May, it was resolved to agree with the proposal of the government for the purchase. It was also resolved, that the Gresham lectures should be read over the Royal Exchange, and that the lecturers should be allowed a proper consideration for the loss of their apartments, by taking down the old building.

At a court of common-council, held on the 23d of June, the freedom of the city, in a gold box, was voted to the Rt. Hon. Charles Townshend, chancellor of the exchequer, as a mark of acknowledgment for his endeavours to serve them in their application to parliament for the several improvements to be made in the metropolis. At the same court, also, after a long debate, it was agreed to allow the proprietors of the London-bridge water-works a fifth arch of the bridge; but under the express condition, that, if the grant should be hereafter found prejudicial to the navigation of the river, the city should have liberty to revoke their grant, on paying the proprietors their whole expense in occupying the said arch.

On the 14th of September, 1767, Elizabeth Brownrigg (wife of James Brownrigg, painter, in Fetter-lane, Fleet-street), was executed at Tyburn, for the murder of Mary Clifford, her apprentice. The child's death was occasioned by a series of such uncommon barbarities, that, had they not been well attested on the trial, would have appeared almost incredible. The husband and son, who were in some degree concerned, were acquitted of the murder, but afterwards tried for an assault; of which being found guilty, they were sentenced to be imprisoned in Newgate six months, and to enter into recognizance for their good behaviour for seven years. Before she left Newgate, her husband and son took an affectionate leave of her in the cell. She appeared very penitent in the way to, and at, the place of execution; where the number of spectators was so great, that many persons were considerably hurt. After hanging the usual time, her body was taken to Surgeon's-hall for dissection.

In the month of November a disturbance took place between two classes of weavers, who were mutually injurious to each other; and, on the 30th, a considerable body of the engine weavers, armed with rusty swords, pistols, and other offensive weapons, assembled at a house on Saffron-hill, with the supposed intention of destroying the work in the looms of an eminent narrow-weaver in that neighbourhood; but they were dispersed without doing any mischief. Some of them, being apprehended and examined before the magistrates at Hicks's-hall, alleged, that they had assembled for the purpose of defending themselves against a party of the others, who were expected to rise; and, as no injury had been done, they were dismissed, but not without a severe reprimand, for not having applied to the civil power for protection, instead of proceeding in such a tumultuous manner.

At a court of common-council, held the 15th of December, an additional salary of two hundred pounds was voted to the recorder of the city, in consideration of the increasing business of his office; and, at the same time, one hundred and fifty pounds was added to the annual salary of the common serjeant.

The year 1768 began with a very severe frost, which greatly contributed to the calamity of the lower sort of people, who were already much distressed from the exorbitant price of provisions. On the 9th of January, the river, below bridge, bore all the appearance of a general wreck; ships, boats, and small craft, lying in a very confused manner, some on shore, and others sunk, or overset by the ice. A fishing-boat was discovered, near Deptford-creek, jammed in by the ice, and all the people in it frozen to death; one of whom, a youth about seventeen, was found sitting erect, as if alive.

At the election for members to represent the city in parliament, which took place on the 16th of March, Mr. Wilkes, who had been outlawed for not appearing to the indictments against him, offered himself a candidate. He had come unexpectedly from France, determined to try the effect of his schemes to acquire popularity; but, for want of preparation, he was, in this instance, unsuccessful, and stood lowest upon the poll. This defect he did not fail to attribute to the undue influence of the ministry, and declared his intention of standing for the county of Middlesex. During this contest, which was very warm, many indecencies were committed in and about the hall; and several inflammatory papers were published, but there was no actual violence.

Even this moderation, however, was not adhered to at the Middlesex election, which took place on the 28th. Many outrages were committed by the mob, during the course of the proceedings; and on their return to town, after the election, which terminated in favour of Mr. Wilkes, the grossest insults were offered to those who had espoused the cause of either of his opponents. At night, the advocates for Mr. Wilkes illuminated their houses, and the mob, parading the streets, compelled all those to do the same, who chose to prevent their houses and windows from being demolished. The windows of the Mansion-house, in particular, were all broken, together with a large chandelier and some pier-glasses, to the amount of many hundred pounds. They demolished all the windows of Lord Bute, Lord Egmont, Sir Sampson Gideon, Sir William Mayne, and many other gentlemen and tradesmen, in most of the public streets of both cities, London and Westminster. In short, the whole evening was one continued scene of noise and tumult.

The next day, orders were given to the guards on duty at St. James's, to be in readiness, at the beat of drum, to march, to suppress any riot that might happen: and, the day following, a court of common-council was summoned, on purpose to consider of the most proper and effectual means to prevent, for the future, as well as to punish, all such as should be found to have been guilty of the late riots and disturbances in this city; and the court came to a resolution to prosecute, with the utmost vigour, every person who should be convicted of having been active in the riots, and to offer a reward of fifty pounds for the discovery of every offender, to be paid on their conviction; and ordered the same to be inserted in every daily and evening paper, and to be printed and posted up in the most public places of this city, and the liberties thereof. They also directed, that such prosecutions as should arise from their resolution, should be referred to the committee appointed to direct their law proceedings: and it was referred to the Mansion-house committee, to order the immediate reparation of all such damages as it might have sustained by the said riots and tumults.

On the 15th of April, a desperate fray happened at Wapping, among several gangs of coal-heavers, in which many persons were wounded, and three houses almost destroyed: and, on the 20th, a great body of them assembled, at Wapping, and beset the house of Mr. Green, a publican, who defended the same all night; and a great many shot were fired on both sides, whereby three of the assailants were killed, and several dangerously wounded.

The Prince of Monaco, at whose court the Duke of York died, had been invited over to England, by his majesty, in acknowledgment for the civilities he had shown to his deceased brother. During his stay here, the lord mayor, thinking it incumbent on the city to show their respect also, invited the prince to an entertainment at the Mansion-house. Accordingly, on the 18th of April, the prince, with a great number of the nobility, dined with the lord mayor; and, in the evening, the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland honoured the company with their presence at a ball, which was opened by the Duke of Cumberland and the Lady Mayoress. The entertainment provided on this occasion was exceeding magnificent; and the company in general, particularly the visitor on whose account it was made, expressed the highest satisfaction.

In conformity to a promise given by Mr. Wilkes on his return, he made his appearance in the court of King's-Bench, on the 20th of April; but as his surrender in that manner was irregular, and not in compliance with any process issuing out of that court, the judges declined taking any cognizance of it, on which he retired. On the 27th he was taken into custody by a writ of *capias utlagatum*, and was brought up under a *habeas corpus*, to be bailed; but the court being of opinion that no person is intitled to be bailed after conviction, he was ordered to be conveyed to the King's-bench prison; but, in his way thither, the mob stopped the coach on Westminster-bridge, took off the horses, and drew it along the Strand, Fleet-street, &c. to Spitalfields; Here they turned the two tipstaves out of the coach, and would have treated them indecently had it not been for Mr. Wilkes, who successfully exerted his influence in their favour. They then drew the coach to the Three Tuns Tavern, where Mr. Wilkes got out, and from an upper window earnestly entreated them to retire, which they accordingly did; and when they dispersed he went privately and delivered himself to the marshal of the King's-Bench prison.

The next day the prison was surrounded, by a prodigious number of people, who, it was expected, would have offered some outrage; but no disturbance happened till night, when they pulled up the rails that enclosed the footway, with which they made a bonfire, and obliged the inhabitants of the Borough to illuminate their houses; but a captain's guard of one hundred men arriving, about twelve o'clock, they all dispersed.

The discontent of the populace at this time was considerably increased by the excessive price of provisions, on which account many disturbances happened that were attended with the most disagreeable consequences. A large body of coal-heavers went on board the colliers in the river, and obliged the men immediately to quit their work. They complained of the ill usage practised by their employers, who they said curtailed their wages, and, instead of paying them with money, only gave them liquor and goods of a bad quality; and that these undertakers got fortunes, while they, who did the work, were starving. This tumult was productive of much mischief, for the rioters meeting with a strong opposition, the fray became so desperate that several lives were lost, and others were so maimed as to be ever after incapable of executing their business.

The sailors belonging to the outward bound vessels in the river, imbibed the contagion, and refused to proceed on their voyages without an increase of wages. On the second of May great numbers of them assembled in Stepney-fields and Deptford, from whence they proceeded, in a riotous manner, and boarded those ships in the river that were preparing to sail; they unrigged the vessels and forced away the men, declaring, that no ships should sail before the merchants had agreed to advance their wages. On the 7th they again assembled in St. George's Fields, from whence they proceeded to St. James's Palace with colours and music before them, and presented a petition to the king, setting forth their grievances, and praying relief.

But the event which created the strongest sensation at this time, was the following: In the afternoon of the 10th of May, a great body of people assembled about the King's-Bench prison, in expectation that Mr. Wilkes was to go from thence to the parliament-house (it being the first day of opening the new parliament), and designing to convey him thither. They demanded him at the prison, and grew very tumultuous; whereupon, the riot act was begun to be read, but the populace threw stones and brick-bats while it was reading, when William Allen, son of Mr. Allen, master of the Horseshoe-inn, in Blackman-street, Southwark, being singled out, was pursued by one of the soldiers, and shot dead on the spot. Soon after this, the crowd increasing, an additional number of the guards were sent for, who marched thither, and also a party of horse grenadiers; when the riot continuing, the mob was fired upon by the soldiers, and five were killed on the spot, and about fifteen wounded. Two women were among the wounded, one of whom afterwards died in St. Thomas's Hospital. The next day an inquisition was taken by the coroner for Surrey on the body of the above William Allen, when a verdict was given by the jury, that Donald Maclane was guilty of wilful murder, and Donald Maclaury, and Alexander Murray, the commanding officer, were aiding and abetting therein. This inquest was held at the house of Mr. Allen; and it appeared on the examination, that the deceased was only a spectator, and, on seeing some persons run, he ran also, but was unhappily mistaken, and followed by the soldiers five hundred yards into a cow-house, where he was shot. Donald Maclane was committed to prison for the murder, but his associates were admitted to bail. Two inquisitions were afterwards taken in the Borough, on persons killed by the soldiers in quelling the above riot; one on the body of Mary Jeffs, who, having a basket of oranges to sell, was shot dead in removing them; the other on William Bridgeman, who was shot on the top of a hay-cart, as he was looking at the fray at a distance: on both these inquisitions the jury brought in their verdict *chance medley*. It appeared, by the evidence, that, on the justices taking down a paper that had been fixed against a wall of the prison, the mob grew riotous, and cried out, "give us the paper;" which the justices not regarding, stones began to be thrown, and the cry, " give us the paper," grew louder; the drums beat to arms; the proclamation was read; the justices were pelted who read it; great pains were taken to persuade the people to disperse; the horse-guards were sent for, and it was not till the last extremity that the soldiers received orders to fire. Maclane was afterwards tried at the Surrey assizes held at Guildford, and acquitted.

The next day the mob assembled before the house of Edward Russel, Esq. distiller, in the Borough, broke open the door, staved some casks of liquor, drank it immoderately, and began pulling down the house; but the military interposing, four of the most intoxicated were seized, and the rest made their escape. At the same time the front of the house of Richard Capel, Esq. in Bermondsey, was demolished, and Mr. Capel himself wounded. These outrages were occasioned by the activity of the above two gentlemen, in suppressing the tumults in St. George's Fields.

The same day, upwards of fifteen thousand sailors went through the city to petition the parliament for an augmentation of their wages. When they were in Palace-yard, they were addressed by two gentlemen, mounted on the roof of a hackney-coach, and were told, that they could receive no immediate answer to their petition; but that it would be considered in due time: on which they gave three cheers and dispersed. Their chiefs afterwards waited on a committee of merchants, and matters were accommodated to their general satisfaction.

A very considerable body of coal-heavers assembled in Stepney-fields, and proceeded from thence to all the coal-wharfs from Shadwell to Essex-stairs, carrying with them a writing, which they presented to the masters of the wharfs to sign, signifying their consent to raise their wages; which having accomplished, they next day waited on the lord mayor, at the Mansion-house, to obtain a confirmation of this agreement; but his lordship thought proper to decline intermeddling with their affairs.

A terrible fray happened on the 25th, between the coal-heavers and sailors belonging to the colliers in the river, in which many were killed. The sailors, having been long detained in the river by the coal-heavers refusing to work, had begun to deliver their ships themselves; upon which, a body of coal-heavers fell upon some of the sailors by surprize, and killed several of them. The sailors took the alarm, the quarrel became general, and the consequences were the loss of many lives.

On the 7th of June another fray happened in Stepney-fields, between the same parties, when several of the sailors were killed. The coal-heavers marched off in triumph, with colours flying, drums beating, &c. offering five guineas for a sailor's head. The ships below bridge were obliged to keep constant watch day and night; and to so great a height was this insurrection got, that the inhabitants of Wapping were perpetually under the most dreadful apprehensions. A party of guards constantly attended for some days, during which several disturbances arose, and many coal-heavers were taken up by the soldiery and carried before Sir John Fielding, who, on examination, committed them to Newgate. Two of them were afterwards tried at the Old Bailey for the murder of one Battie, a seaman, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn. Seven others were also executed in the Sun Tavern Fields (near where the riot was committed), for shooting at Mr. Green, the master of the Roundabout Tavern in Shadwell. These examples produced the wished-for effect; the tumults immediately ceased, and peace and industry were happily restored.

The King of Denmark being on a visit to his majesty, the citizens of London were desirous of showing their respect to him; in consequence of which it was resolved in a court of common-council to invite him to an entertainment at the Mansion-house, which being accepted, the 23d of September was the day appointed for receiving the royal guest, who intimated his desire of coming to the city by water.

In consequence of this a committee was chosen to conduct the entertainment, who were empowered to draw on the Chamberlain for money to defray the expenses. On the appointed day, the city barge, attended by the companies' barges, proceeded to New Palace-yard, where the king embarked; and, in order to give him a more extensive view of the banks of the river, a circuit was made as high as Lambeth, and then down to the Steel-yard, after which they returned to the Temple-stairs, and, on landing, were conducted to the Middle Temple Hall, where an elegant collation was prepared by the benchers of the two societies.

From the Temple his majesty was conducted to the Mansion-house in the city state coach, followed by the noblemen of his suite, and the aldermen and sheriffs in their carriages: on alighting, he was received by the committee appointed to manage the entertainment, in their mazarine gowns; and, being conducted into the great parlour, received the compliments of the city, to which his majesty returned a very polite answer. The dinner, which was exceeding magnificent, was served in the Egyptian-hall; the gallaries of which were filled with the ladies of the common-council-men, elegantly attired, and an excellent band of music was stationed in an orchestra erected for the occasion. His majesty took leave of the corporation about eight o'clock, having expressed his highest satisfaction at the elegance of the entertainment. And, at a court of common-council held on the 10th of October, the freedom of the city was unanimously voted to the King of Denmark, to be presented in a golden box of two hundred guineas value. His majesty was admitted into the Grocers' company, and his freedom being afterwards given to his ambassador here, was by him transmitted to Copenhagen.

The death of George Cook, Esq. having occasioned a vacancy for Middlesex, Sir W. B. Proctor, who had been the unsuccessful candidate at the former election, and Serjeant Glynn, Mr. Wilkes's leading council, were put in nomination on the 8th of December. The poll proceeded quietly till the afternoon, when a mob broke into the hustings, attempted to seize the poll-books, and put an entire stop to the election. Many persons were considerably hurt in the scuffle, and the remainder of the day was a scene of confusion. The poll was again proceeded in, on the thirteenth, and, on the following day, terminated in favour of Serjeant Glynn.

George Clarke, an attorney's clerk, in Marybone, who had received a severe blow on the head at Brentford, on the day of the riot, died soon after, and an inquest was held on his body before the coroner for the county of Middlesex and a very respectable jury of neighbours, who brought in a verdict of wilful murder by some person or persons unknown. Soon after this, two Irish chairmen were apprehended and tried for the murder, and it being proved that they had been hired for the purpose of creating a riot, and been very instrumental in it, they were both convicted; but were afterwards pardoned on an opinion of the master, wardens, and examiners of the company of surgeons, who agreed unanimously that the blow was not the cause of Mr. Clarke's death.

The last public transaction of the year 1768, was the institution of the Royal Academy of Arts, which was established on the 18th of December, under the immediate patronage of his majesty. This society was first held in a large house in Pall-Mall; after which the king granted them apartments in Somerset-house.

CHAP. XLII.

Mr. Wilkes elected Alderman of Farringdon without.—He is expelled the House of Commons.—Instructions to the City Representatives.—Middlesex Elections.—Address of the Merchants to the King.—Freeholders' Petition.—Petition of the Livery of London.—Disturbances among the Weavers.—Correspondence relative to the Execution of two of the Rioters.—City Remonstrance.—Protest of the Aldermen against it.—The Right of the Lord Mayor to call a Common-hall questioned.—Address and Remonstrance.—The Lord Mayor replies to the King.—Foundation of Newgate.—Death of the Lord Mayor.—Proceedings against the Recorder.—Bounty for Seamen.—The Citizens again address the King.—Opposition to Press-warrants.

AT this period the citizens of London eagerly seized every opportunity of showing their attachment to Mr. Wilkes. On the 3d of January, 1769, the election for alderman of the Ward of Farringdon without, came on at St. Bride's church; the candidates were Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Bromwich; but, on the close of the first day's poll, the disparity of numbers was so great, that the latter gentleman declined the contest, and the lord mayor declared Mr. Wilkes duly elected. Some doubts, however, were started respecting the legality of closing the books before the time appointed for that purpose, and a second wardmote was held for a new election on the 27th, when no opponent appearing, Mr. Wilkes was again declared duly elected.

On the 2d of February the House of Commons passed a resolution of expulsion against Mr. Wilkes, as the author of "an insolent, scandalous, and seditious, libel," contained in the prefatory remarks he had published, with a letter written by Lord Weymouth to the chairman of the quarter sessions of the county of Surrey; and a new writ was consequently ordered for the election of a member for Middlesex. This produced an immediate meeting of the freeholders at the Assembly-room at Mile End, where they unanimously resolved to confirm their former choice, and to support Mr. Wilkes entirely at their own expense.

Frequent meetings were at this time held, not only by the freeholders of Middlesex, but also by the electors of Westminster, those of Southwark, and the livery of London, in order to concert proper measures for vindicating the rights of election, and instructing their particular members to support them in their parliamentary capacity. On the 10th of February a common hall was held for this purpose, when a string of resolutions, expressive of the desires of that court, was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be presented to their representatives in parliament.

The most material articles in these instructions were in substance as follow: To be particularly careful of the *habeas corpus* act, and to inquire into and censure any attempt to elude the force of that law. To preserve equally inviolate the privilege of parliament, and the rights of election in the choice of their representatives. To prevent all application of the public money to influence elections of members to serve in parliament. To use their utmost endeavours that the civil magistracy of the kingdom be put on a respectable footing, and thereby remove the pretence of calling in a military force. To use their best endeavours for having a standing committee appointed from time to time, to examine and state the public accounts. To promote a bill for limiting the number of placemen and pensioners in the House of Commons, and that an oath, to prevent bribery and corruption, be taken, not only by the electors, but also by the candidates, at the opening of the poll. And, lastly, that they use their utmost endeavours to obtain an act to shorten the duration of parliaments.

The new election came on at Brentford, on the 16th of February, when Mr. Wilkes being put in nomination, he was chosen without opposition. Notwithstanding this, when the return was made, the next day, to the House, it was resolved, "that Mr. Wilkes, having been expelled this session, was, and is, incapable of being elected a member of the present parliament." In consequence of this resolution, the election was declared void, and a new writ was issued for another.

In the interim, a meeting of Mr. Wilkes's friends was held at the London Tavern, in Bishopsgate-street, for the support of his cause; when the sum of three thousand three hundred and forty pounds was immediately subscribed for that purpose; and the subscribers afterwards formed themselves into a society, under the appellation of "Supporters of the Bill of Rights;" which, they asserted, had been infringed by the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes.

On the 16th of March, another election came on at Brentford, for a member for Middlesex; when Mr. Wilkes being the only candidate, he was again returned. The House of Commons, however, persevered in their objections, and, on the same evening, declared the election null and void; and a new writ was issued for another.

Addresses were at this time presented to his majesty from almost every part of the kingdom; among which was that of the merchants of the city of London, who waited on his majesty, on the 22d; and, being introduced by the Earl of Hertford, lord chamberlain of the household, they presented the same; and were most graciously received. When they set out from the Royal Exchange, in order to present the address, the populace showed their resentment by throwing of mud, &c. they shut the gates at Temple-bar, and did every thing possible to impede their progress. When some of the coaches got to Exeter-change, a hearse came out of Exeter-street, and preceded them, drawn by a black and a white horse; the driver of which was dressed in a kind of rough coat, resembling a skin, with a large cap, on one side black, the other white, whose whole figure was very grotesque. On one side of the hearse was painted, on canvas, a representation of the rioters killing Mr. Clarke, at the Brentford election; and on the other side, was a representation of the soldiers firing on young Allen in the cow-house. The populace were so outrageous, that some of the merchants were obliged to quit their carriages, and take shelter in the houses; and others, whose clothes were entirely covered with mud, retired home to shift themselves, before they could proceed with the address.

When they came to St. James's, it was discovered they had lost the address they came to present; and, while a messenger was dispatched in search of it, they began hastily to sign a copy of it. This accident was occasioned by the gentleman, in whose possession it was, being obliged to take shelter in Nando's coffee-house, in order to avoid the indignation of the populace; when, in his hurry and fright, he left the address in the coach, and ordered his coachman to return home. The address, however, being found, was forwarded to St. James's, and the addressers, at length, accomplished their wishes (though attended with such singular difficulties), of testifying their distinguished loyalty.

Several of the rioters were seized at St. James's-gate, five of whom were detained for prosecution; and, the same evening, an extraordinary Gazette was published, containing a proclamation for suppressing riots, tumults, and unlawful assemblies.

The final election for Middlesex took place on the 14th of April. The candidates were, Mr. Wilkes, Colonel Luttrell, Serjeant Whitaker, and Mr. Roche; and, at the close of the poll, the numbers were, for Mr. Wilkes, 1143; Colonel Luttrell, 293; Serjeant Whitaker, 5; and Mr. Roche, 0: whereupon, Mr. Wilkes was declared duly elected. On the following day, the House of Commons, after considerable debates, determined, that Mr. Wilkes was still incapable of being a member of this parliament, and that Colonel Luttrell should be the sitting member: in consequence of which, Colonel Luttrell took the oaths and his seat, as knight of the shire for the county of Middlesex.

This decision was far from being agreeable to the nation; and, perhaps, no measure, since the accession of the present royal family, has created such universal discontent. Petitions and addresses flowed in from every part of the kingdom; in which the county of Middlesex, as being most immediately concerned, took the lead. A petition, signed by one thousand five hundred and sixty-five freeholders of that county, was presented to his majesty, on the 24th of May, containing a long catalogue of grievances, relative to the infringements on the constitution, from the first prosecution of Mr. Wilkes, to his being expelled the House of Commons; and concluding thus:

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"Such are the grievances and apprehensions, which have long discontented and disturbed the greatest and best part of your majesty's subjects. Unwilling, however, to interrupt your royal repose, though ready to lay down our lives and fortunes for your majesty's service, and for the constitution, as by law established, we have waited patiently, expecting a constitutional remedy by the means of our own representatives; but our loyal and free choice having been frequently rejected, and the right of election now finally taken from us, by the unprecedented seating of a candidate who was never chosen by the county, and who, even to become a candidate, was obliged fraudulently to vacate his seat in parliament, under the pretence of an insignificant place, invited thereto by the prior declaration of a minister, that, whoever opposed our choice, though but with four votes, should be declared member for the county. We see ourselves, by this last act, deprived even of the franchises of Englishmen, reduced to the most abject state of slavery, and left without hopes or means of redress, but from your majesty or God.

" Deign, then, most gracious sovereign, to listen to the prayer of the most faithful of your majesty's subjects, and to banish from your royal favour, trust, and confidence, for ever, those evil and pernicious counsellors, who have endeavoured to alienate the affection of your majesty's most sincere and dutiful subjects, and whose suggestions tend to deprive your people of their dearest and most essential rights, and who have traiterously dared to depart from the spirit and letter of those laws, which have secured the crown of these realms to the House of Brunswick; in which, we make our most earnest prayers to God, that it may continue, untarnished, to the latest posterity."

The citizens of London were equally anxious to show their disapprobation of this proceeding, and, early in May, had requested the lord mayor to call a common-hall, for the purpose of taking the sense of the livery on the measures to be pursued in the existing circumstances; but this his lordship declined, until he could procure the opinion of the common-council upon it. A court was accordingly summoned for this purpose; when a motion was made, " that the right honourable the lord mayor be desired to issue a precept to assemble the livery in common-hall, pursuant to their application to his lordship:" which was carried in the negative, by a majority of twenty.

But this disappointment only increased their eagerness; and, on Midsummer-day, when a common-hall was held for the choice of sheriffs, and other city officers, the hall was crowded; and so fearful were the livery of not obtaining their wishes, that they would not permit the business of the day to be entered upon, till they were assured by the lord mayor. that, as soon as that was finished, he would listen to any motion they might choose to bring forward. This declaration was received with great applause. and the elections proceeded as usual: after which, a petition to the king being produced and read, it was unanimously agreed to, with the exception of the title, which originally stood thus: "The humble Petition of the *Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and* Livery, of London;" but, on the suggestion of the lord mayor, the words in Italics were omitted.

In August and September, great disturbances arose among the weavers, in Spitalfields, occasioned by a body of handkerchief weavers, who, conceiving themselves not sufficiently paid, refused working, unless their masters would increase their wages. In order to support those, who were out of employment in consequence of this proceeding. they levied a contribution of six pence a week from every loom that was at work; and if their more industrious brethren did not comply with this imposition, they destroyed their work, and cut their looms to pieces; from which they received the appellation of cutters. On the 30th of September a desperate conflict took place, between a body of them and a party of the military, who were called in to assist the civil magistrate. One of the soldiers and two of the rioters were killed; and some of the latter being taken, two of them, Doyle and Valline, were tried at the ensuing October sessions, and, being capitally convicted, sentence was passed upon them in the customary form. The execution of these men occasioned a curious correspondence between the lord chancellor, the secretary of state, and the sheriffs. According to the sentence passed upon them by the recorder, they were to suffer at the usual place of execution; but the warrant transmitted to the sheriffs, signified that it was his majesty's pleasure that the sentence should be executed in the most convenient place near Bethnal-green church. The sheriffs, not knowing how they ought to proceed, under the circumstances of this variation from the sentence, laid the case before Serjeant Glynn, who, in his opinion, said he was unacquainted with any authority which could justify an alteration of the sentence of a court of justice, and advised them to represent their doubts to his majesty.

Upon the case being laid before the king, he ordered the prisoners to be respited till the opinion of the judges could be taken upon it; which was soon after given to the following effect: "That the time and place of execution are, in law, *no part* of the judgment; and that the recorder's warrant was a lawful authority to the sheriffs, as to the time and place of execution." In reply to this, the sheriffs wrote to the lord chancellor, to say, that, though their doubts were over-ruled, they were not satisfied:

on the 6th of December, however, a letter was received by the sheriffs, informing them, from authority, that, as the judges had determined their warrant was legal, it was his majesty's pleasure that there should be no farther respite for the two convicts. Accordingly, on the 8th, they were executed on Bethnal-green, attended only by the peace officers, the sheriffs having refused the assistance of the military; but the mob was so outrageous, that it was found necessary to order the unhappy sufferers to be turned off before the usual time allowed on such occasions, to prevent a rescue.

The citizens of London, not having received any answer to their petition, presented to the king, relative to the Middlesex election, determined to renew their solicitations on the subject. On the 1st of March, 1770, a committee of the livery laid a memorial before the court of common-council, in which they stated, that, though a petition had been presented by them to his majesty, no answer or redress had been obtained; they therefore applied to that court, to join in a request to the lord mayor to call another common-hall, that further measures might be taken for the re-establishment of their ancient rights and privileges. The question being put, was carried in the affirmative, and, in consequence, a common-hall was held on the 6th, when a second application to his majesty was read, and unanimously agreed to; the title of which ran thus: "The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery, of the City of London, in Common-hall assembled." The substance of this remonstrance was, a repetition of the grievances mentioned in their former petition, and an earnest request to his majesty to dissolve the parliament.

This address and remonstrance was presented on the 14th; and his majesty returned the following answer: "I shall always be ready to receive the requests, and to listen to the complaints of my subjects; but it gives me great concern to find, that any of them should have been so far misled as to offer an address and remonstrance, the contents of which I cannot but consider as disrespectful to me, injurious to parliament, and irreconcilable to the principles of the constitution.

"I have ever made the law of the land the rule of my conduct, esteeming it my chief glory to reign over a free people: with this view, I have always been careful, as well to execute faithfully the trust reposed in me, as to avoid even the appearance of invading any of those powers which the constitution has placed in other hands. It is only by persevering in such a conduct, that I can either discharge my own duty, or secure to my subjects the free enjoyment of those rights, which my family were called to defend; and while I act upon these principles, I shall have a right to expect, and I am confident I shall continue to receive, the steady and affectionate support of my people."

At a court of aldermen, held on the 13th, the legality of this address, and the propriety of its title, were strongly objected to, and a motion was made that it should be disavowed in that court; which occasioned a warm altercation. Next day, the following protest appeared in all the public papers. "We, the aldermen of the city of London, whose names are hereunto subscribed, observing that the address, remonstrance, and petition, agreed upon by the livery, who met at Guildhall, on Tuesday, the 6th of this inst. March, is intituled, 'The Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery, of the City of London, to the King's most Excellent Majesty,' do declare, that we were not assenting to, nor signified our approbation of the said address, remonstrance, and petition. Dated the 13th of March, 1770.

Robert Ladbroke
Robert Alsop
Richard Glynn
Thomas Harley
Samuel Turner
Henry Bankes
Richard Peers
William Nash
Thomas Halifax
John Shakespear
James Esdaile
Samuel Plumbe
Barclay Kennet
J. Kirkman
James Rossiter
John Bird."

The example of the majority of the court of aldermen was followed by three of the city companies, who disputed the power of the lord mayor, in calling common-halls, on any other occasion than merely for the election of city officers. At a court of assistants of the Goldsmith's company, held the 22d of March, the following resolution was agreed to:

"The right honourable the lord mayor having issued precepts for summoning the livery of this city to meet at Guildhall, on Tuesday, the 6th inst. to consider of a farther application for a redress of grievances; at which meeting, a most indecent remonstrance was ordered to be presented to his majesty:

"Resolved and ordered, That, for the future, the wardens of this company do not summon the livery thereof to attend at any meeting in the Guildhall (except for the purpose of elections), without the express approbation or consent of this court."

The companies of grocers and weavers followed the example of the goldsmiths, and, at their next court days, passed resolutions of a like tendency.

On the 12th of April, a common-hall was held at Guildhall, by virtue of a precept from the lord mayor, to receive the report of his majesty's answer to the address, remonstrance, and petition, of the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery, of London; as also to hear the resolutions and addresses of the Houses of Lords and Commons thereupon; and to take into consideration the late proceedings of the companies of goldsmiths, weavers, and grocers; and, in particular, their resolution not to obey the orders of the lord mayor, for summoning the livery of the respective companies to attend at common-halls. The last committee of the livery were appointed to consider what would be the proper mode of proceeding against these refractory companies, and to report their opinion to the court of common-council.

Mr. Wilkes, being discharged from his confinement, was sworn in alderman of Farringdon without, on the 24th of April, and took precedence from the time of his election.

On the 14th of May, a court of common-council was held, to consider of a third address, petition, and remonstrance, to his majesty, which was presented on the 23d; when his majesty was pleased to return the following answer:

"I should have been wanting to the public, as well as to myself, if I had not expressed my dissatisfaction at the late address.

"My sentiments on that subject continue the same; and I should ill deserve to be considered as the father of my people, if I could suffer myself to be prevailed upon to make such an use of my prerogative, as I cannot but think inconsistent with the interest, and dangerous to the constitution, of the kingdom."

It was on this occasion that the lord mayor, Beckford, made that reply to the king, so much spoken of at the time, for its promptitude and spirit, but which is now asserted to have been composed by Mr. Horne Tooke, and entrusted to his lordship's memory.

Her majesty having been happily delivered of a princess, on the 22d of May, the lord mayor went to St. James's, on the 30th, with the customary congratulations, and was informed, "that, as his lordship thought fit to speak to his majesty, after his answer to the late remonstrance, as it was unusual, his majesty desired that nothing of the kind might happen for the future."

On the following day, the lord mayor, attended by the sheriffs and several of the aldermen, went in state to the Old Bailey, and laid the first stone of the present prison of Newgate. This was the last public transaction of Mr. Beckford's life, which was terminated by a rheumatic fever, on the 21st of June. The high opinion in which he was held, at that time, by his fellow-citizens, was evinced by the first common-council held after his death; in which a resolution was passed for erecting a statue to his memory, in Guildhall.

The recorder having given great offence to the corporation, by refusing to attend the presentation of the late addresses and remonstrances, two motions were carried, in the court of common-council, on the 6th of July, for taking the recorder's conduct into consideration at the next court, and for printing and distributing a copy of his oath to the members.

In consequence of hostilities committed by the Spaniards, by forcibly taking possession of a small British settlement on the Falkland Islands, government gave orders for immediate preparations for a war with that power; and press-warrants were issued to all the sea-ports and principal towns in England. Application being made by the lords of the Admiralty to the lord mayor, to back these warrants, he refused, on the ground that this was an unusual proceedure, unless when the lord mayor received intimation of its necessity immediately from the privy-council: when the request was made through that channel, the lord mayor complied; but it produced much dissension in the corporation.

A court of common-council was held on the 27th of September, at which the case of the recorder was taken into consideration. That gentleman attended, and justified his conduct, declaring, that, should a similar case occur, he would act as he had done: in consequence of which, the court came to a resolution, "that the recorder, by refusing to attend the lord mayor, aldermen, and commons, of this city, with their humble address, remonstrance, and petition, acted contrary to his oath and the duty of his office:" and the further consideration was adjourned to the 12th of October; when it was resolved, that he should be no more advised with, retained, or employed, in any affairs of the corporation; he being deemed unworthy of their future trust or confidence.

On the 15th of November, a court of common-council was held at Guildhall, when it was unanimously agreed and resolved, that the sum of forty shillings for every able seaman, and twenty shillings for every ordinary seaman, over and above the bounty granted by his majesty, be given during the pleasure of the court, and not exceeding one month from this day, to every such seaman as shall enter at the Guildhall of this city into the service of his majesty's navy. It was also resolved and ordered, that the remembrancer do immediately wait on the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Hawke, first lord commissioner of the Admiralty, with a copy of the resolution fairly transcribed, and signed by the town-clerk, and signify the request of the court, that his lordship will, at a proper opportunity, lay the same before his majesty, as an humble testimony of their zeal and affection for his most sacred person and government.

At the same court a motion was made and carried, that another humble address, remonstrance, and petition, be presented to his majesty, touching the violated right of election, and praying for a dissolution of parliament. This address was presented on the 21st; and his majesty returned the following answer. "As I have seen no reason to alter the opinion expressed in my answer to your address upon this subject, I cannot comply with the prayer of your petition."

The lieutenants employed in the impress service attended the lord mayor, on the 1st of December, to have their warrants backed by his authority; but his lordship refused, and told them, that the bounty given by the city was intended to prevent such violence.

The opposition to the impress service was carried to such a height, in the city of London, at this period, that, on the 15th of January, 1771, a motion was made in the court of common-council, to censure Alderman Harley, for having backed the warrants; and, on the 22d, the following resolution was carried: "That if any person shall be impressed within this city or liberty into his majesty's service, by virtue of any warrant granted or backed by any of his majesty's justices of the peace for this city, that this court will immediately direct their solicitor, at the city's expense, to prosecute, in the name of the person so impressed (if he desires it), not only the justice of the peace who granted or backed the said warrant, but the constable or peace-officer who executed the same." This question, however, was put to rest by a letter from the secretary of state to the lord mayor, informing him that the dispute between the two governments was amicably adjusted.

CHAP. XLIII.

Case of the Printers.—The City Magistrates deny the Authority of the House of Commons in the City.—The Lord Mayor and One of the Aldermen sent to the Tower.—Proceedings of the Common-council in Support of the imprisoned Magistrates.—Opinion of Counsel on the Case of the refractory Companies.--Address and Remonstrance. Court of Escheats.—-The Lord Mayor refuses to call a Common-hall.--The Exhibitions of St. Paul's School increased.--Dreadful Storm.—Writs of Certiorari, brought in the King's-bench, set aside.—-Vote of Censure on a Lord Mayor.—-Election of a Recorder.—-Remarkable Fog.—-Petition for a Redress of Grievances.—-The Recorder's Salary increased.—Judgment against the Master of the Goldsmith's Company.—Petition against the Quebec Bill.—-Reversal of the Judgment against the Goldsmith's Company.—Address and Petition on American Affairs.—Proclamation against Rebellion and Sedition.—-Election of Chamberlain.—Protest against it.—Refusal to back Press Warrants.

THERE seemed to be, at this period, a determination in some of the city magistrates to oppose and thwart every measure which originated with the government; and, under the plausible pretence of upholding the privileges of the corporation, they sought opportunities of counteracting all their proceedings. In February, 1771, complaint had been made to the House of Commons, by some of its members, that their speeches had been grossly misrepresented in the public newspapers, a practice which prevailed too generally on both sides; and, as the insertion of the proceedings of the House is a direct violation of their standing orders, a motion was made, and carried by a great majority, for ordering Wheble and Thompson, the printers of two of the papers, to the bar. This order was not obeyed, and, in consequence, another was made for taking them into the custody of the serjeant at arms, which proved equally ineffectual. A royal proclamation was therefore issued, offering a reward for apprehending them. Both of them were apprehended, and the first being brought before Mr. Alderman Wilkes he discharged him and bound him over to prosecute the person who took him, for an assault; the other being taken before Mr. Alderman Oliver, he was also discharged in the same way.

Mr. Miller, the printer of the Evening Post, having been also complained against, was taken into custody by a messenger of the House of Commons, at his own house, by virtue of a warrant from the speaker: Miller sent for a constable who carried both him and the messenger before the lord mayor, who was assisted by the two above-named aldermen. They not only discharged the printer, but compelled the messenger to give bail to answer the assault and imprisonment of a citizen, without the order of a city magistrate.

The House of Commons resented this contempt of their authority, and ordered the lord mayor and the two aldermen to appear before them. Mr. Crosby and Mr. Oliver attended, as members of the House; but Mr. Wilkes refused to appear, except as member for Middlesex. The House, not choosing to enter again into this question, adjourned over the day appointed for his attendance; but, in the mean time, they committed the lord mayor and Alderman Oliver to the Tower, where they remained to the end of the session.

The conduct of these magistrates, on this occasion, was so highly approved by the citizens, that a vote of thanks to them was passed in the court of common-council, and a committee was appointed to assist them in their defence; and, after their committal,

mittal, they were brought before every court of judicature, at Westminster, by *habeas corpus*, at the city expense, in order to procure their enlargement; but the courts refused to interfere with the privileges of the House of Commons; and they were remanded to the Tower.

At length the day arrived, when, by the prorogation of parliament, the power that detained them expired, and their liberation was the consequence. Some days previous to it, the court of common-council had resolved to attend their enlargement, accompanied by the city officers. Accordingly, they assembled at Guildhall, and proceeded to the Tower in fifty-three carriages; the procession being augmented by the artillery company, who attended in their uniform. When the lord mayor and Mr. Oliver were brought to the Tower-gate, they were saluted by twenty-one pieces of cannon belonging to the artillery company, and, from thence to the Mansion-house, received the loudest acclamations of an innumerable concourse of spectators.

At a court of common-council, held the 28th of May, it was resolved and ordered, "That it be referred to the committee appointed to assist the lord mayor and Alderman Oliver, in the Tower, to state cases, and take opinions, whether there is any, and what, method to bring into a course of trial, the legality of an imprisonment by a vote of either House of Parliament." It was farther resolved, "That, in case the said committee should be advised that the legality of the commitment of the lord mayor and Alderman Oliver can be put into a due course of trial by law, they be authorized so to do."

At another court of common-council, held the 5th of June, the opinions of the counsel, who had been consulted by the committee abovementioned, were read to the court; when it appeared, they did not think any action could be commenced on that account. At the same time, the report was made from the committee, who had been appointed to consider of a proper mode of proceeding against the Goldsmiths, Grocers, and Weavers' companies, for their disobedience to the lord mayor's precepts. The report stated, that queries had been submitted to counsel, on the following heads; namely, the power of the lord mayor to call common-halls; the obligation of the masters and wardens of the several companies to obey the lord mayor's precepts; and the methods of punishment, in case of refusal.

The answers to these questions were as follow: "We conceive it to be the duty of the proper officers of the several companies, to whom precepts for summoning their respective liveries have been usually directed, to execute those precepts; and, that a wilful refusal on their parts is an offence punishable by disfranchisement. If it be thought proper to prosecute with that view, in the present case, we think it most adviseable to proceed in the usual way, by information, to be filed by the common-serjeant, in the mayor's-court; which the common-serjeant may file, *ex officio*, if he pleases, or at the instance of either of the bodies mentioned in the query.

"Alex. Wedderburne, J. Glynn, J. Dunning,
T. Nugent."

A common-hall was held, as usual, on Midsummer-day, for the election of city officers for the year ensuing. This business being adjusted, a motion was made for presenting another humble address, remonstrance, and petition to his majesty, setting forth the many grievances already complained of, and still unredressed; together with the injurious and unconstitutional behaviour of the House of Commons, during the last sessions, who had imprisoned

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the person of the lord mayor, their chief magistrate, and Mr. Alderman Oliver, one of their representatives. The remonstrance being read to the livery, it was unanimously approved of, and ordered to be presented by the lord mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, the city members, the common-council, and the livery of London, attended by the city officers. Another motion was made and carried, "That the livery of London do desire the common-council to present a silver cup to the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, of the value of two hundred pounds, with the city arms engraved thereon; and to the aldermen, Wilkes and Oliver, one each, of the value of one hundred pounds, as marks of their gratitude, for their upright conduct in the affair of the printers, and for supporting the city charters." Though this motion was readily agreed to by the livery, it met with some obstacles in the court of common-council; and so long was it before it was carried, that the cups were not presented to the different parties till the month of January following.

On the 30th of June came on at Guildhall, the trial of Edward Twine Carpenter, for an assault, in seizing and taking up the person of J. Wheble, according to the royal proclamation for that purpose; when he was found guilty, fined one shilling, and ordered to be imprisoned for two months in Wood-street Compter.

On the 4th of July the sheriffs waited on the king, to know when he would be pleased to receive the city remonstrance; when his majesty appointed the 10th, at two o'clock. The lord mayor therefore issued precepts for the attendance of the aldermen, common-council, and livery; but in the evening preceding the day appointed, his lordship received the following letter.

"My Lord,

"As, in consequence of the notice given of the time your lordship proposes setting out, to-morrow, the livery may be induced to attend your lordship to St. James's, I have the king's commands to acquaint you, that, it being unprecedented to admit the livery upon such occasions, as well as impracticable to introduce so numerous a body, no persons, beyond the number allowed by law to present petitions to the throne, will be admitted, except your lordship, the aldermen, common-council, and city officers. I am, my Lord, with the greatest respect, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

Grosvenor-street, "HERTFORD."
July 9, 1771.

This letter being read to the livery, who had assembled in Guildhall, a committee of ten (the number allowed by an act of parliament made in the reign of Charles II.), were appointed to attend his lordship on the occasion. When the town-clerk had done reading the remonstrance, his majesty returned the following answer:

"I shall ever be ready to exert my prerogative, as far as I can, constitutionally, in redressing any real grievances of my subjects; and the city of London will always find me disposed to listen to any of their well-founded complaints: it is, therefore, with concern that I see a part of my subjects still so far misled and deluded, as to renew, in such reprehensible terms, a request, with which, I have repeatedly declared, I cannot comply."

On the 16th of July, a court of escheats was held, at Guildhall, before the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, by virtue of his majesty's commission, issued by the court of chancery, directed to his lordship, as the king' escheator in the city of London, to inquire into that kind of escheat, of an estate devolved to the crown, *pro defecto sanguinis*, or want of an heir. The case was, the late Major-general Browne, who died in 1764, was proved to be an illegitimate son of one Mrs. Elizabeth Dean, by the Hon. Mr. Lumley. Mrs. Dean, the general's mother, devised several real estates to Mr. Browne in fee: he lived and died unmarried, therefore could not have any heir; however, by his will, properly attested, he gave several of his mother's estates to the Foundling Hospital; which bequest, by the mortmain act, was void in law. The testator, discovering this mistake, in six days after, endeavoured to cure it by a codicil; and, if the charitable legacy proved ineffectual, gave the estate to one Mrs. Beecroft: fatally for her, this codicil was attested by only a single witness, which, by statute-law, is void; so that the general may be said to have died without a will, and his estates, therefore, escheated to the crown; and so they were found, and returned by the inquisition.

The lord mayor made a point, at first, as to the return of the inquisition, by virtue of the king's writ, insisting on his having an independent jurisdiction, by virtue of charters, and his oath; but the writ being issued on the petition of Mrs. Beecroft, praying to obtain the estate, or some part of it, his lordship waved, in this instance, his objection, but insisted, for the future, that informations of escheats should be originally brought to the lord mayor, who would officially proceed in such enquiries, without any royal mandate. There had not been a like court held, since the mayoralty of Sir Wollaston Dixie, who was lord mayor of London, in the year 1585.

In the beginning of October, the city solicitor filed informations of disfranchisement, in the mayor's court, against the masters and wardens of the three refractory companies of Goldsmiths, Grocers, and

Weavers, for refusing to obey the lord mayor's precept for a common-hall.

At a court of aldermen, held on the 19th of October, a committee was appointed to meet on the 29th, in conformity to the will of Sir James Langhorn, to elect twenty-five poor sailors, and twenty-five poor soldiers, who have families, and receive no pensions from government, to a gift of four pounds each.

A requisition was presented to the lord mayor, signed by one hundred and forty-three liverymen, in February, 1772, to call a common-hall, for the purpose of giving public instructions to the city representatives, relative to a motion to be made in parliament, by Alderman Sawbridge, for shortening the duration of parliaments; but, on consideration, his lordship declined doing so, while the exercise of the right remained a question for legal determination.

In consequence of this refusal, a deputation of common-councilmen waited on his lordship, to request he would call a court of common-council; with which request he complied; and the court being held on the 20th, a motion was made, and carried by a large majority, to desire him to issue precepts for calling a common-hall for the above purpose; but he declared, that he neither could, nor would, comply with their requisition; referring them to the reasons he had given for refusing the first application.

On the 11th of March, the young gentlemen of St. Paul's School spoke their annual orations before a numerous audience, with universal applause. They passed their examinations with such honour, that the worshipful company of Mercers, as a reward for their merit, and an encouragement to their future improvement, enlarged their exhibitions, out of the increase of the founder's estate, from twenty to thirty pounds yearly, during the first three years of their college residence; and, after taking their degrees, to forty pounds per annum.

On Sunday, the 22d of March, a violent storm of hail, thunder, and lightning, happened in London and its neighbourhood, during divine service in the afternoon. The congregations, in many churches, were struck with the utmost consternation; particularly at St. John's, Horsleydown, where, the hailstones breaking some of the windows, a great part of the people, in the midst of the sermon, precipitately ran out, and the remainder were thrown into the utmost confusion. At Lambeth church, every one fled from the windows, the charity-children were frightened into a general outcry, and the service was, for some time, stopped.

The refractory city companies having removed several informations of disfranchisement from the mayor's court to the court of King's-bench, and the city solicitor having obtained rules for them to show cause why the several writs of *certiorari*, for removing the same, should not be quashed, the matter was argued in that court, on the 1st of June, when Lord Mansfield gave the opinion of the court thereon; which was, That the writs had been improvidently granted; that causes of that nature had no business in Westminster-hall; that every corporation, *inter se*, was the sole judge of its own rights and franchises; and that the corporation of London had the right and power of determining the present cause solely in their own hands. In consequence of this, on the 23d of June, the city solicitor signed judgment of disfranchisement against the masters and wardens of the three companies, in the mayor's court; but, in the afternoon, the recorder set the judgment aside, in order, as he alleged, to give the parties an opportunity of trying the merits of the cause at large.

At a court of common-council, held on the 13th of November, the following motion was put and carried in the affirmative.

"Resolved, That the late lord mayor, having refused to call a common-hall on a most important public business, at the requisition of many respectable gentlemen of the livery; having denied a considerable body of this court, to call a court of common-council; having refused to put questions in common-hall, of the utmost consequence to the rights of the livery; and having ordered the sword to be taken up, both in common-hall and in this court, before the public business was finished, has been guilty of violating the rights and privileges of this city." A division being demanded on this question, there appeared to be—For it, 6 aldermen and 90 commoners; against it, 5 aldermen and 45 commoners. Majority for the vote of censure, 46.

A resolution was also passed, for limiting the salary of the recorder to the ancient sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, for himself and deputy, in case he should accept the office of a judge, in any of the courts at Westminster, or of attorney or solicitor-general, to the king or queen, or should accept a patent of precedence from the crown.

Sir James Eyre having been appointed a baron of the Exchequer, an election for recorder took place on the 17th; when Serjeant Glynn was elected by a majority of one.

In the morning of the 23d of December, there happened one of the greatest fogs in London, that had ever been remembered; by which great damage was done. The darkness was so great, that the carriages of the nobility and gentry were attended by lights, the same as at midnight. Many accidents occurred during the continuance of this fog, which lasted through the night; and, in the morning, several people were found dead in the fields round the metropolis, who, not being able to find their way, were supposed to have perished from the inclemency of the weather.

On the 11th of March, 1773, a common-hall was held, by virtue of the lord mayor's precepts for that purpose, to consider of a farther application to the throne, for a redress of grievances; when an address, petition, and remonstrance, was agreed to, which, by his majesty's appointment, was presented on the 26th. After it had been read by the recorder, his majesty returned the following answer.

" I have the satisfaction to think that my people don't doubt of my readiness to attend to their complaints, or of my ardent desire to promote their happiness; which I cannot more effectually do, than by resisting every attempt to sow groundless jealousies among them.

" Your petition is so void of foundation, and is, besides, conceived in such disrespectful terms, that I am convinced you do not seriously imagine it can be complied with."

At a court of common-council, held the 16th of June, the recorder's salary was augmented to one thousand pounds per annum, during the pleasure of the court, and, at the same time, an additional salary of two hundred pounds per annum was granted to the common-serjeant.

On the 14th of July, the cause between the common-serjeant, on behalf of the city of London, and Samuel Plumbe, Esq. prime warden, or master, of the Goldsmith's company, was tried at Guildhall. The suit was instituted against the defendant, for refusing to obey a precept, issued in 1770, by the then lord mayor, to convene the livery of the said company to a common-hall; and, after a long hearing, it was determined in favour of the plaintiff.

And, on the 7th of March, 1774, the recorder gave judgment, at Guildhall, in the above cause; which was, that it was legal, and sufficient to support the conviction.

The excessive rains that fell in the course of this month, raised the waters in many rivers (but principally those westward of London), to a greater height than had been known in the memory of man. The levels, on the sides of Chelsea and Battersea, were entirely overflowed, and considerable damage done to the gardeners' grounds and young plantations. The force of the current in the river was so strong, that two west-country barges were carried out of the channel, and left in Battersea-fields, when the flood abated. Many of the western roads were rendered impassable; and the towns in general, adjoining to the rivers, received considerable injury from the violence of the inundation.

Among other bills that had passed both houses of parliament, in the month of June, was one that occasioned universal discontent. It was intituled, "An Act for the future Government of Quebec." The principal clauses that gave offence, were two; by the first of which, the Roman clergy were to have the exercise of their religion, as established by the 1st of Queen Elizabeth; and might enjoy, and receive, the accustomed dues and rights, from persons professing the Romish religion. By the second clause, all controversies, relative to property and civil rights, were to be determined by the Canada laws then in being, or such as might be afterwards enacted by the governor, lieutenant-governor, and legislative council. To prevent this bill receiving the royal assent, on the 22d of June (the day his majesty was to go to the House), the lord mayor, the aldermen Crosby, Lewes, Plomer, and Sawbridge, the recorder, city officers, and upwards of one hundred and fifty of the common-council, went in procession from Guildhall to St. James's, in order to present an address and petition to his majesty, against signing it. They arrived at St. James's a quarter before one, just as his majesty was preparing to go to the House; and, previous to their admittance, the Lord Hertford delivered to the lord mayor the following paper:

"As your petition relates to a bill, agreed on by the two Houses of parliament, of which his majesty cannot take public notice, until it is presented to him for his royal assent in parliament, I am commanded by the king to inform you, that you are not to expect any answer."

The lord mayor, immediately on reading it, sent the remembrancer to present his duty to the king, and to inform his majesty, that he waited, officially, to present to his majesty an Address from the city of London: on which, after some little hesitation, they were admitted, and the same was read by the recorder.

His majesty then went in the usual state to the House of Peers, and gave the royal assent to such bills as were ready; among which was that so recently petitioned against by the citizens of London.

On the 3d of February, 1775, came on to be argued, before the judges of appeal, in Serjeant's-inn, Chancery-lane, the long-depending cause relative to the disfranchisement of Alderman Plumbe, brought by writ of error before their lordships; when Mr. Mansfield, as counsel for the plaintiff, in error, endeavoured to prove that his client, as a citizen of London, was not subject to disfranchisement, for not obeying the lord mayor's precept, to summon, as chief warden of the Goldsmith's company, the livery of the said company, to attend in Guildhall, to hear his majesty's answer to the humble address and remonstrance of the corporation of London; as the only legal business of convening the livery, he said, was for them to elect their members of parliament, magistrates, and other officers; all other corporate business of the city coming under the cognizance of the common-council; and he recited many law reports to confirm his argument. Mr. Davenport, as counsel for the defendant in error, observed, that it was the duty of the plaintiff to obey the lord mayor's precept, and that he was obliged to do so by his oath as a freeman; that it was impossible to know the sense of the citizens, but by such meetings; that no person was so proper to call them together, as the lord mayor, or chief magistrate; and he enforced his arguments by many pertinent cases in law. The judge, however, adjourned the further arguing of the cause to a future day.

The final decision of this important question did not take place until the 7th of July; when Lord Chief Justice de Grey, Lord Chief Baron Smythe, Mr. Justice Aston, and Mr. Justice Ashurst (the commissioners appointed to review the proceedings on this information, met, according to their adjournment, at Guildhall, and delivered their judgment; which was, That they were unanimously of opinion, that the information was erroneous in many particulars, which they severally specified; and that Mr. Alderman Plumbe, by neglecting to summon the livery of the Goldsmiths' company, of which he was prime warden, to attend Alderman Beckford, when lord mayor, at a common-hall, had not been guilty of any offence against his oath and duty as a freeman; consequently, the judgment of disfranchisement, pronounced against him, in the mayor's court, by the recorder, was by them reversed.

The distracted state of North America, at this time, engaged the attention of all ranks in Great Britain. The obstructions to trade, which were the inevitable consequence of it, could not fail to be severely felt in London; and repeated petitions and remonstrances, from the merchants, were presented to the parliament on this subject. On the 14th of July, an address and petition, from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, was presented to his majesty; who was pleased to return the following answer.

"I am always ready to listen to the dutiful petitions of my subjects, and ever happy to comply with their reasonable requests; but, whilst the constitutional authority of this kingdom is openly resisted by a part of my American subjects, I owe it to the rest of my people, of whose zeal and fidelity I have had such constant proofs, to continue and enforce those measures, by which alone their rights and interests can be asserted and maintained."

On the 23d of August, a proclamation was issued for suppressing rebellion and sedition; and, on the 29th, it was read in Palace-yard, Westminster, and at Temple-bar, by the heralds, &c. as also at the Royal-Exchange, by one of the lord mayor's officers, accompanied only by the common crier. The lord mayor would not permit the officers to have horses, or the mace to be carried, as is usual on such occasions.

The election of a chamberlain was warmly contested, in the beginning of 1776. Sir Stephen Janssen, having signified his intention of resigning that office, a common-hall was held, on the 20th of February, for the choice of his successor; when Aldermen Wilkes and Hopkins were put in nomination as candidates. The show of hands appeared to be greatly in favour of Mr. Wilkes; but a poll being demanded in favour of Mr. Hopkins, it began on the same day, and was finally closed on the 27th; when the numbers were, for Mr. Alderman Hopkins, 2887; and, for Mr. Alderman Wilkes, 2710: in consequence of which, the former was declared duly elected.

At a court of aldermen, held on the 15th of March, Mr. Hopkins resigned his gown, as alderman of Broad-street ward; and at a wardmote, held at Draper's-hall, on the following day, Richard Clark, Esq. the present chamberlain, was unanimously elected in his stead.

This was the twentieth vacancy in the court of aldermen within seven years, viz. from the 24th of April, 1769; when Alderman Wilkes was elected, on the death of Sir Francis Gosling. The annals of the metropolis do not afford a similar succession of changes within the same period.

A common-hall was held, as usual, on Midsummer-day, when, after the election for the other city officers, the sheriffs informed the livery, that there were two candidates for the chamberlainship; viz. Benjamin Hopkins, Esq. the present chamberlain, and John Wilkes, Esq.

The two candidates then respectively addressed the livery, after which they were successively put up, when the show of hands was so apparently equal, that the sheriffs were unable to determine who had the majority: they, therefore, put them up a second time; after which, they declared the majority was in favour of Mr. Wilkes: but a poll was immediately demanded, by the friends of Mr. Hopkins, which began at four o'clock on the same day, and finally closed on the 1st of July; when the numbers appeared as follow:

For Mr. Hopkins,	-	2869
Mr. Wilkes,	-	1673

The report was made to the court of aldermen, on the 4th; when the sheriffs, aldermen, &c. came on the hustings, and, the numbers being read to the livery, Mr. Hopkins was declared duly elected. The aldermen, sheriffs, &c. then returned, in order to swear in Mr. Hopkins; when a protest was entered against it, grounded upon an act of common-council, which directs, that no person shall enjoy the office of chamberlain of this city, that has not served an apprenticeship of seven years, or obtained his freedom by patrimony; to neither of which Mr. Hopkins had any pretension, he having acquired his freedom by purchase. After a long debate, he was sworn in upon the following condition, "that he should act officially, till a legal determination be had in a court of law."

In the month of October, warrants were issued from the Admiralty-office, to all the sea-ports and principal towns in England, to impress men into the service of his majesty's navy. In consequence of this, application was made to the lord mayor, in the following month, requesting him to back the warrants for impressing men in the city. This request was absolutely refused; but his lordship gave orders to the city marshals, to go with proper assistants, and search the public houses in the city, to take into custody all loose and disorderly men, and to bring them before him; when, if they could not give a satisfactory account of themselves, he would send them on board a tender, to serve his majesty. By this judicious step, many idle persons were obtained, and the more industrious escaped being illegally forced from their friends and families. The same measures were likewise pursued by the high constable for the city and liberty of Westminster; when great numbers were taken, the principal part of whom were persons who had not any visible method of livelihood.

CHAP. XLIV.

Petition against the American High-treason Bill.—-The Election for Chamberlain contested.—Disputes with Government, relative to Pressing.—-Case of Millachip.—The old Sheriffs sworn in again.—Petition to the Common-council, from Mr. Wilkes's Creditors.—-The Corporation refuses to raise Troops.—Subscriptions of Individuals for that Purpose.—-Address against the Continuance of the American War.—The City's Right to Toll on landing Goods, confirmed.—-Seizure of contraband Goods in the Fleet Prison.—Votes of Censure on the Lord Mayor.—Tremendous Hurricane.—Disturbance on Admiral Keppell's Acquittal.—Trial relative to the Toll on Hay, in Smithfield-market.—-Foundation of the New Sessions-house, Clerkenwell.—The Recorder's Salary reduced.—Election for Chamberlain.—-Petitions to Parliament.—-Claim of the Oyster Meters tried.—-A Middlesex Magistrate fined for impressing a Freeman.—-The Right of the City over the Navigation of the Thames confirmed.—Account of the Riots in 1780.—*Proceedings in the Court of Common-council.*

In the beginning of the year 1777, a bill was brought into the House of Commons, to enable his majesty to secure and detain persons charged with, or suspected of, the crime of high treason, committed in America, or on the high seas. The powers to be granted by this bill, being considered inimical to the genuine principles of the constitution, a petition against it was prepared and approved of in a court of common-council, held on the 14th of February, and, on the same day, presented to the House of Commons, by the sheriffs. The bill passed both Houses of Parliament, and received the royal assent; but such amendments were made in it as met the principal desires of the petitioners.

The election for chamberlain was again contested this year. Mr. Wilkes, whose protest last year had not produced the effect he wished, was again put in nomination, on Midsummer-day, and, on the majority of hands being declared to be in favour of Mr. Hopkins, a poll was demanded; at the close of which, the numbers were, for Mr. Hopkins, 2132; for Mr. Wilkes, 1228; upon which Mr. Hopkins was declared duly elected. This attempt was repeated on the next Midsummer-day, with still less success.

The legality of pressing freemen of the city of London, was a fertile source of discord between the administration and the citizens. In the latter part of the last year, the lord mayor claimed an exemption for the watermen of his barge; the city claimed an exemption from pressing within its jurisdiction; but the court of King's-bench held, that these claims were not supported by adequate proof.

While this dispute continued, several naval officers were taken into custody, charged, by men whom they had impressed, but without getting them out of the city jurisdiction, with assaults; the consequences were, that the impressed men were discharged, and, in some cases, the officers were held to bail.

But the most prominent circumstance of this description, that occurred at this period, was in the case of one Millachip. When he was impressed, Alderman Bull wrote to the secretary to the Admiralty-board, requesting his discharge, on the ground of his being a freeman and liveryman of London. The answer returned, was, that the Lords of the Admiralty did not apprehend that this exempted him from being impressed, if otherwise liable. In consequence of this, a common-council was held, in which a letter to the Admiralty, in the name of the court, was read and agreed to; and a resolution passed, that, if Millachip's discharge was not granted, legal measures should be taken to procure it; and the city solicitor was ordered to follow the directions of a committee appointed for that purpose.

This application being equally ineffectual with the former, a writ of *habeas corpus* was obtained from the court of King's-bench, by virtue of which, Millachip was brought from on board the admiral's ship, at Portsmouth.

In a few days after this, as he was going down the river in his lighter, he was again taken by a press-gang, and put on board a man of war; in consequence of which, the committee met, and came to resolutions to apply for another habeas corpus, and to bring actions against the lieutenant and regulating captain, for detaining him; but the question never came to a legal decision.

Great difficulty was experienced this year, in finding sheriffs; the gentlemen chosen at five common-halls, having either paid the fine, or been excused, a sixth was held, on the 2d of October, when the aldermen, Peckham and Clark, were elected.

A petition was presented to the court of common-council, on the 23d of October, from the creditors of Mr. Wilkes, craving the payment of some part of his debts; which, after a very warm debate, was ordered to lie on the table; and, on the 19th of November, a motion was made in the same court, that an annuity of five hundred pounds per annum, be paid by the chamberlain, to John Wilkes, Esq. alderman, during the pleasure of the court; which was carried in the negative, by a great majority. A motion was then made, and seconded, "That it is the opinion of this court, that the granting any annuity to John Wilkes, Esq. alderman of the ward of Farringdon-without, or the paying any of that gentleman's debts, out of the city cash, whether contracted in his mayoralty or not, would be an improper application thereof, and a most dangerous precedent." This question was carried in the affirmative, on a division: 12 aldermen and 93 commoners being for it, and 4 aldermen and 70 commoners against it.

The disapprobation manifested by the citizens, from the commencement of the American war, was again called forth in the beginning of the year 1778. A scheme for raising men by subscription, in counties, towns, and corporate bodies, had been set on foot, and was eagerly embraced by some of them. In support of this plan, the example of the city of London was greatly wished for, and, indeed, confidently expected; but the promoters of the measure were equally astonished and disappointed at the determination of the question, in the court of common-council, held on the 16th of January, for the purpose of taking it into consideration. The original intention was said to be, that the city of London should raise and maintain a body of five thousand men, to serve for three years, or during the war; this, however, probably from some previous doubts, was afterwards changed into a motion for opening a subscription to pay bounties to such able-bodied men as should enter into his majesty's sea or land service; which motion was rejected by upwards of three to one. Immediately after this decision, a motion was made, "That it is the opinion of this court, that, to give any countenance to, or to be in any manner instrumental in, the farther continuance of the present ruinous and destructive war, whilst offers of just and honourable terms are withheld from America, will reflect dishonour on their humanity, and in no-wise advantage the commercial interests of this great city:" which was carried in the affirmative.

But, though the corporation thus refused to support the measures of administration, individuals, who thought differently, pursued the rejected scheme. Accordingly, a subscription was opened at the London Tavern, and a committee appointed to manage the business; and, as it took its rise among monied men, and the leaders and proposers of it were necessarily liberal in their subscriptions, upwards of twenty thousand pounds were soon raised.

At a court of common-council, held on the 3d of March, an address and petition to his majesty, against the further prosecution of the American war, was agreed to, and presented on the 13th. But his majesty's answer was not in unison with the prayer of the petition.

A cause was tried at Guildhall, on the 3d of August, respecting the right of the city to demand toll from the market gardeners, for landing their goods at Blackfriar's-stairs; which was determined in favour of the gardeners.

Some smugglers had been long in the practice of concealing their goods in the Fleet-prison; information of which being given to the officers of the customs, a search was made there, early in the morning of the 9th, and contraband goods, to the value of fifteen hundred pounds, were seized. To guard against opposition from the prisoners, application was made to the chief justice of the Common-pleas, to permit a party of soldiers to enter with their arms; which was readily granted.

A common-hall was held, on Michaelmas-day, for the election of a lord mayor for the year ensuing. After the business of the day was concluded, one of the livery made a motion for an address of thanks to the four city representatives, for their conduct in parliament; but the lord mayor refused to put the question; and, after a long altercation upon the subject, Sir Watkin Lewes was voted into the chair, when it was again proposed, and carried unanimously;

mously; as was also a vote of censure against the lord mayor.

This business was again discussed, in the first court of common-council, held in the new mayoralty, on the 19th of November. A motion was made in the usual form, to give the thanks of the court to the Right Hon. Sir James Esdaile, for his conduct during his continuance in that office; but, after warm debates, it passed in the negative, and a motion for censuring him was carried by nearly two to one: the court of aldermen, however, were of a different opinion from the livery, and, on the 25th of November, voted their thanks to him, for his careful, prudent, and impartial discharge of that high office.

The year 1779 was ushered in with one of the most destructive hurricanes that ever affected the metropolis. Almost every public or private building, in or near town, sustained some damage from it; while most of the ships in the river were driven from their moorings, and ran foul of each other; some were driven on shore, and filled with water, and great damage was done among the small craft. Several houses were entirely blown down, a very great number were stripped of their roofs, and the stacks of chimnies destroyed were almost innumerable: among others, one belonging to Buckingham-house, broke through the roof, into the apartments of three of the young princes, who were in bed, but providentially received no hurt. But all were not so fortunate; many lives were lost, and a vast number of persons terribly maimed, by the fall of buildings, in different parts of the town; and the accounts from every part of the kingdom, were equally melancholy.

In consequence of the acquittal of Admiral Keppel, who had been tried by a court-martial, at Portsmouth, upon a charge of misconduct in an engagement with the French fleet, the populace were so elated, that a scene of great confusion and mischief ensued. A mob assembled, who, not satisfied with enforcing a general illumination, attacked the houses of many who were obnoxious to them, demolished the windows, and destroyed the furniture.

At a court of common- council, held on the 12th of February, the day following this disturbance, the thanks of the court were voted to the admiral, as was the freedom of the city: the latter was presented to him, on the 22d, in a box made of heart of oak, richly ornamented with gold.

A cause was tried in the court of King's-bench, on the 5th of August, respecting the right of a claim, set up by the city of London, to a duty of six pence per load, on hay sold in Smithfield, not the property of freemen of London. This was disputed by the inhabitants of Finchley, who pleaded an exemption in favour of the Bishop of London and his tenants, granted by King John; but, as it did not appear that the manor of Finchley belonged to the bishop, at the time of the grant, a verdict was given for the city of London.

The foundation-stone of the new court-house, on Clerkenwell-green, was laid on the 20th of August, by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, accompanied by Sir John Hawkins, chairman, and a considerable number of the magistrates of the county of Middlesex.

A vacancy having occurred for the office of recorder, by the death of Serjeant Glynn, a motion was made, in the court of common-council, on the 6th of October, that the salary of the person, chosen in the room of John Glynn, Esq. deceased (which had been raised to one thousand pounds per annum, on his election), should be reduced to six hundred pounds per annum; which was unanimously agreed to; and, on the 12th, the court of aldermen elected Serjeant Adair to the office, by a majority of one.

A common-hall was held, at Guildhall, on the 22d of November, for the election of a chamberlain, in the room of Benjamin Hopkins, Esq. The candidates were, Mr. Alderman Wilkes and Mr. James; and the show of hands being greatly in favour of the former, a poll was demanded, at the close of which, Mr. Wilkes was elected by a very great majority.

In the beginning of the year 1780, the expenditure of the public money became a frequent subject of animadversion, and the discontent of the people was very strongly manifested by a continual succession of petitions, which pointed not only at a reformation in the executive departments of the state, but also at a reform in parliament. On the 2d of February, a meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster was held, for the purpose of preparing a petition to parliament, to controul the shameful waste of public money, &c. which being produced and agreed to, a committee of near one hundred noblemen and gentlemen was appointed to correspond with the other committees throughout the nation. Similar measures were followed in the court of common-council, on the 10th: a petition to the House of Commons was agreed to, and a committee of correspondence, consisting of eight aldermen and sixteen commoners was appointed. Many of the petitions, presented at this time, aimed at visionary and impracticable alterations in the government; but one very essential benefit to the state, was the consequence of this demonstration of the public opinion: Mr. Burke's celebrated plan of public economy was carried through both Houses of Parliament, and received the royal assent.

A cause was tried, on the 2d of March, between the oyster-meters of London, and the proprietors of the oyster-beds in the county of Essex, respecting the claim of the former to a specific sum, for work, which they had an exclusive right of performing, by custom and immemorial usage: the latter contended, that this right was abolished, by the acts of parliament for making Billingsgate a free market. The jury, however, after hearing the arguments on both sides, gave a verdict for the plaintiffs, which established their right.

Mr. Justice Wilmot, prosecuted to conviction, for imprisoning a fellowship-porter, under an act of parliament for impressing men into his majesty's service, appeared in the court of King's-bench, on the 26th of April, to receive sentence, and was fined one hundred pounds; which being paid into court, he was discharged.

On the 3d of May, a very interesting question, reserved at the Surrey assizes, was argued in the court of King's-bench. The inhabitants of Richmond, conceiving themselves entitled to the soil of the river, as far, at least, as low-water-mark, had employed a number of persons to obstruct the making a towing-path, ordered by the common-council of London; when the court being clearly of opinion, that the city was authorized to improve the navigation of the river, by all ways and means in their discretion, a verdict was given for the plaintiffs; but, as the corporation meant merely to establish their right, and not to insist upon severe punishment, a nominal fine of six shillings and eight pence was inflicted.

The month of June began with a most tremendous insurrection, that threatened the total destruction of the cities of London and Westminster. The dreadful scenes of riot and confusion commenced on the 2d. On the morning of that day, in consequence of an advertisement from the Protestant Association, a vast number of people assembled in St. George's-fields,

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fields, to proceed to Westminster, in a body, with a petition to the House of Commons, for the repeal of the law passed in the last session, for the relief of the Roman Catholics. About eleven o'clock, they were joined by their president, Lord George Gordon, who, having made a short speech to them, recommending a peaceable deportment, formed them into four divisions; in which order they marched over London-bridge, through Cornhill, Fleet-street, and the Strand, following their respective banners, on which was expressed the name of the division, with the words, "No Popery!" At Charing-cross, they were joined by fresh numbers of their own body, who proceeded with them to the House of Commons. On their arrival at New Palace-yard, they found their president and the committee, who had taken the route of Westminster-bridge, waiting to receive them. By this time their numbers were increased so much, that the two Palace-yards, Westminster-hall, and all the avenues to both Houses of Parliament, were entirely filled with them. In this situation they waited the arrival of the members, many of whom were grossly insulted by them. The Archbishop of York was the first attacked; the Bishop of Litchfield had his gown torn; the wheels were taken off the Bishop of Lincoln's carriage, and his lordship narrowly escaped with life; the Lord President of the Council, Lord Bathurst, was treated very roughly; the windows and pannels of Lord Mansfield's coach were broken to pieces; the Duke of Northumberland's pocket was picked of his watch; the Lords Townshend and Hillsborough came together, and were greatly insulted; Lord Stormont's coach was broken to pieces, and himself in the hands of the mob for near half an hour; Lords Ashburnham and Boston were treated with the utmost indignity, particularly the latter, who was so long in their power, that it was proposed to the House to go in a body, and endeavour, by their presence, to extricate him; but, in the interim, his lordship escaped without any material hurt. Many others of the peers were personally illtreated; and Wellbore Ellis, Esq. was obliged to take refuge in the Guildhall of Westminster, whither he was pursued, the windows broken, the doors forced, and Justice Addington, with all the constables, expelled. Mr. Ellis escaped with the greatest hazard.

During these unwarrantable proceedings, Lord George Gordon came several times to the top of the gallery stairs, and harangued the mob, informing them of the bad success their petition was likely to meet with, and pointing out the members who opposed it. It was considered as a mark of pusillanimity in the House of Commons, that, upon the arrival of the guards, at night, they did not commit one of their own body, who had so shamefully violated their privileges, and brought them into such unequalled disgrace and danger, to the Tower: but it is doubtful whether such an attempt, on that day, would not have increased the fanatic fury of the populace to a height, which might have overpowered every endeavour to restrain it.

Before the rising of the House of Commons, several parties of the rioters had filed off, and proceeded to the demolition of the chapels belonging to the Sardinian and Bavarian ministers.

The guards had been ordered out, to protect the two Houses of Parliament, and were now sent for, to check the destructive rage of the mob, but did not arrive until every thing moveable was taken into the street, and burnt: however, thirteen of the rioters were apprehended at the Sardinian chapel.

On the following day (Saturday), the riots had apparently subsided, no material depredations having been committed; but on Sunday, in the afternoon, the rioters assembled again, in large bodies, and attacked the chapels and dwelling-houses of the catholics, in and about Moorfields. They stripped their houses of furniture, and their chapels, not only of the ornaments and insignia of religion, but they also tore up the altars, pulpits, pews, and benches, and made fires of them, leaving nothing but the bare walls. About nine o'clock, a party of the guards arrived, on which the populace dispersed, but not without some accidents, occasioned by the greatness of the crowd. The lord mayor, with the aldermen Clarke and Peckham, and Sheriff Pugh, had before endeavoured to stop the riot, but to no purpose.

On Monday the rioters collected again, in Ropemaker's-alley, Moorfields, where they demolished the school-house and three other houses. A second party went to Wapping, where they destroyed the catholic chapels, in Virginia-lane, and Nightingale-lane, and committed many outrages; and a third party did the same in the Borough. Mr. Rainsforth, tallow-chandler, of Stanhope-street, Clare-market, and Mr. Maberley, of Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, who had appeared as evidences against some of the rioters, on their examinations before the magistrates, had each of them their houses stripped, and the contents committed to the flames. Sir George Saville's house, in Leicester-fields, underwent the same fate, because he had prepared and brought the bill into parliament for the relief of the catholics.

All the military in town were ordered on duty, on Tuesday; but, notwithstanding every precaution, Lord Sandwich was wounded, in attempting to go down to the House of Peers; his carriage was demolished, and he was rescued, with difficulty, by the military. About six o'clock in the evening, one party went to the house of Justice Hyde, in St. Martin's-street, Leicester-fields, which they destroyed: another party paraded through Long-acre and Holborn, to Newgate, declaring, as they went along, that they would release the confined rioters. When they arrived at the prison, they demanded their comrades of Mr. Akerman, the keeper, but he persisted in his duty, and refused; on which the mob broke the windows; some battered the doors and entrances into the cells, with pick-axes and sledge hammers; others climbed the walls with ladders, while several collected fire-brands, and whatever combustibles they could find, and flung into his dwelling-house. The flames spread from Mr. Akerman's house to the chapel, and thence through the whole prison; in consequence of which, all the prisoners, to the amount of three hundred, among whom were four ordered for execution on the following Thursday, were released.

Even this was but a moiety of the mischief of this terrible night. Not satiated with the destruction of this great building, a party was sent among the catholics, in Devonshire-street, Red-lion-square; another to the house of Justice Cox, in Great Queen-street, which was soon destroyed; a third broke open the doors of the New Prison, Clerkenwell, and turned out all the confined; a fourth destroyed the furniture and effects, writings, &c. of Sir John Fielding; and a fifth desperate and infernal gang went to the elegant house of Lord Mansfield, in Bloomsbury-square, which they, with the most unrelenting fury, set fire to, and consumed. The loss here was immense, both to Lord Mansfield, as an individual, and to the public. A most valuable collection of pictures; some of the scarcest manuscripts said to be in the possession of any private person in the world, with all his lordship's notes on great law cases, and the constitution of England, were sacrificed by madmen and villains;

and Lord and Lady Mansfield were with difficulty preserved from their rage, by making their escape through a back door, a few minutes before these miscreants broke in and took possession of the house. The military was sent for, but arrived too late; they were obliged, however, to fire in their own defence, and six men and a woman were killed, and several wounded. Not contented with the havock and destruction they had been guilty of in Bloomsbury, they went from thence to his lordship's country seat, at Ken-wood, which would certainly have shared the same fate, had they not been repelled by a party of horse, which had been sent thither for the preservation of this delightful place. The inhabitants were obliged, this night, to illuminate their windows.

It is impossible to give any adequate description of the events of Wednesday. Notice was sent round to the public prisons of the King's-bench, Fleet, &c. by the mob, at what time they would come and burn them down. The same kind of infernal humanity was exercised towards Mr. Langdale, a distiller, in Holborn, and several other Romish individuals. Three boys went through the streets, and in particular, down Holborn, in the middle of the day, with iron bars, got from the railing before Lord Mansfield's house, extorting money at every shop, huzzaing, and shouting, "No Popery!" and, though numbers were passing and re-passing, the inhabitants durst not refuse them money, nor attempt to secure them. Small parties, of the like daring nature, were formed in other parts, and the whole city was laid under contribution. One man, in particular, was mounted on horseback, and refused to take any thing but gold. Two men, in the broad day, not contented with the former mischief, got into Mr. Maberly's house, in Queen-street, and staid for upwards of an hour, knocking down the wainscoting, and every bit of wood-work they could, with safety to themselves; and, though a great many peaceable well-dressed people looked on, no one molested them. In the afternoon, all the shops were shut, and bits of blue silk, by way of flags, hung out, at most houses, with the words, "No Popery," chalked on the doors and window-shutters, by way of deprecating the fury of the insurgents, from which no person thought himself secure.

As soon as the day was drawing towards a close, one of the most awful and dreadful spectacles this country ever beheld was exhibited. The mob had not only declared their resolution of firing the prisons, and some private houses, but had avowed their intention to destroy the Bank, Gray's-inn, the Temple, Lincoln's-inn, the grand arsenal at Woolwich, and the royal palaces. An universal stupor had seized the minds of men; they looked at one another, and waited, with a resigned consternation, for the events which were to follow. Government, indeed, had exerted itself to the utmost, as far as their power, under the direction of the civil magistrates, would extend. Now, however, it was become necessary to make use of the royal prerogative, and give discretionary power to the military. Nothing could convey a more awful idea of the mischief which was dreaded, than the strong guard which was placed in the Royal Exchange, for the protection of the Bank; as nothing, perhaps, could have equalled the national desolation, had the diabolical purposes of the insurgents, upon this place, succeeded. Besides this, soldiers were distributed at Guildhall, in the inns of court, in almost every place tenable as a fortification, and in some private houses; and the cannon was disposed to the best advantage in the park.

With minds thus pre-disposed to terror, by so many objects of devastation, and in a city, which, but a few days before, enjoyed the most perfect tranquillity, let those, who were not spectators, judge what the inhabitants felt, when they beheld, at the same instant, the flames ascending, and rolling in vast and voluminous clouds, from the King's-bench and Fleet-prisons, from New Bridewell, from the toll-gates, on Blackfriar's-bridge, from houses in every quarter of the town, and, particularly, from the bottom and middle of Holborn, where the conflagration was horrible beyond description. The houses that were first set on fire, at this last-mentioned place, both belonged to Mr. Langdale, an eminent distiller, and contained immense quantities of spirituous liquors. It is easy to conceive what fury these would add to the flames; but to form an adequate idea of the distress of the neighbouring inhabitants, or, indeed, of the inhabitants in every part of the city, is not so easy. Men, women, and children, were running up and down with beds, glasses, bundles, or whatever they wished most to preserve. In streets, where there were no fires, numbers were removing their goods and effects at midnight. The tremendous roar of the insatiate and innumerable fiends, who were the authors of these horrible scenes, was heard at one instant, and, at the next, the dreadful report of soldiers' muskets, firing in platoons, and at various places: in short, every thing that could impress the mind with ideas of universal anarchy, and approaching desolation, seemed to be accumulating. Sleep and rest were things not thought of; the streets were swarming with people, and uproar, confusion, and terror, reigned in every part.

It is hardly possible to collect, in one point of view, the havock of this night; had half the mischief the mob had threatened been effected, nothing less than national bankruptcy and destruction could have ensued: that they were prevented at those places, on the safety of which the very existence of the empire might be said to depend, was owing, not to their want of will but power, and to the exertion of government. They made two attempts upon the Bank, but were so much intimidated by the strength with which they beheld it guarded, that their attacks were but feebly conducted. They were led on, to the first, by a brewer's servant, on horseback, who had decorated his horse with the chains of Newgate, but were repulsed at the first fire from the military; and their second succeeded no better. They made an effort to break into the Pay-office, likewise, and met the same fate. Several of them fell in these skirmishes, and many more were wounded; as the importance of these places made it necessary to show but little lenity.

It is impossible to ascertain the number of unhappy wretches, who lost their lives in the course of this dreadful night. The attacks of the military were not so fatal to them as their own inordinate appetites. Numbers died with inebriation, especially at the distilleries of the unfortunate Mr. Langdale, from whose vessels the liquor ran down the middle of the street, was taken up by pailfulls, and held to the mouths of the besotted multitude, many of whom killed themselves with drinking non-rectified spirits, and were burnt, or buried in the ruins. Eight or nine of these miserable wretches were found, and dragged out. The same scenes of beastly drunkenness happened in many other places: at Mr. Cox's; at Lord Mansfield's, where an ill-looking fellow, about nineteen, that was wounded, and had his hair clotted with blood, was too drunk, at one o'clock the next day, to be made sensible; at Newgate, likewise, many of them had made so free with the liquor, that they could not get away, and were burnt in the cells. In the streets, men were lying upon bulks and stalls, and at the doors of empty houses, drunk to a state of insensibility, and to a contempt of danger: boys and women were in the same condition, and many of the latter with infants in their arms.

On the following day, the metropolis presented the image of a city recently stormed and sacked: all business at an end, houses and shops shut up: the Royal-Exchange, public buildings, and streets, possessed and occupied by troops; smoking and burning ruins, with a dreadful void and silence, where, so lately, all had been hurry, noise, and business.

The arrangement of the military, on this day, produced so good an effect, that there was no riot or disturbance in any part of the town during the night, and the next day (Friday), peace and tranquillity were restored: the only uneasiness felt, was, that the metropolis was under martial law. To calm the minds of the inhabitants on this subject, a handbill was circulated in every quarter of the town, to inform the public, that the prisoners would not be punished by martial law, but by the ordinary tribunals.

A council was held on Friday morning; in consequence of which, a warrant was issued by the secretary of state, for apprehending Lord George Gordon. He was brought to the war-office in the evening, where he underwent a long examination before several of the lords of the privy-council, and, at half-past nine o'clock, was committed close prisoner to the Tower. The guards that attended him, were by far the most numerous that ever escorted a state prisoner. A large party of infantry was in the front. His lordship followed in a coach, in which were two officers: behind the coach was General Carpenter's regiment of dragoons; after which came a colonel's guard of the foot guards; and besides these, a party of militia marched on each side of the coach.

Though the ill-judged assembling of the Protestant Association, by collecting an immense concourse of idle, dissolute people, may be considered as the origin of this dreadful insurrection, it would be unjust to charge the great body of them with the intention of carrying their point by such means. On the contrary, as soon as they found the evil consequences of their meeting, and the use made of their name, a circular letter was sent to every member, earnestly requesting him not to wear the blue cockade, which had been assumed by the mob, and, by every means in his power, to prevent tumults, which must inevitably impede the accomplishment of their wishes.

It is impossible, perhaps, to trace the cause of this tumult, which certainly was very different from a religious one, to its true source. There is too much reason to believe, that it was the consequence of a deep-laid plot, among the enemies of Great Britain, and that the opportunity of this meeting was considered so favourable to its completion, that it was seized before the arrangements, necessary to give it full effect, were made. This may account for the want of method, so conspicuous in the proceedings of the rioters. Had they, in the first moments of dismay, attacked the Bank and public offices, instead of the chapels, and houses of individuals, national ruin must have followed; for there can be no doubt that they would have succeeded, when the supineness of the civil power, in the first days of the riots, is considered. Though parties of soldiers were continually dispatched to the assistance of the magistrates, these were too much intimidated to act with effect; and the officers of the military durst not take the responsibility upon themselves. This negligence became a subject of complaint, and the lord mayor was ordered to attend the privy-council, to account for his inactivity; before whom he made no scruple of acknowledging, that "the rioters were so violent, and such was his *temerity*, that he thought death would be his portion." His conduct, on this occasion, called forth the severity of Mr. Burke's ironical talents; who pleaded, in his lordship's behalf, in the House of Commons, "that all men were not made alike: the lord mayor, he supposed, was of a timid nature, and without the natural courage and capacity, that fit some men to act a wise and decided part in trying situations: neither had he made up the disadvantages of his natural infirmity and timidity, by study and culture. As he never dreamt, in his younger days, of filling so important a station as that of lord mayor of the city of London, it was probable he had neglected those talents that might be requisite, in certain emergencies, to discharge the duties of it: for these reasons, he hoped they would have mercy on the *poor lord mayor*, in consideration of his natural weakness, and *total want of education!*"

Shortly after the suppression of the riots, special commissions were issued for trying the rioters, in London and the Borough. The total number executed in London was eighteen.

At a court of common-council, held on the 8th of July, a motion was made to address his majesty, thanking him for his care and attention to the citizens of London, in granting them such aid as became necessary to subdue the late dangerous riots; they being too formidable for the controul of the civil authority; which, after long and violent debates, was carried in the affirmative, by a small majority.

A singular circumstance attended the election for representatives of the city, which took place in September, in consequence of the dissolution of parliament. Alderman Kirkman, one of the candidates, who had a majority of votes, died on the same day, and previous to the closing of the poll. It was, however, found necessary to include his name in the return; and a new writ was issued on the meeting of parliament.

On the 2d day of October, the chamberlain was ordered, by the court of common-council, to lay before them an account of the monies paid out of the chamber, on account of the lord mayor; which being produced, a motion was made, and carried in the affirmative, that the sum of eight hundred and fourteen pounds one shilling, paid on account of the lord mayor's view of the river, and expedition to Windsor, ought not to be defrayed by the city; being totally unnecessary, and highly extravagant.

In consequence of its being mentioned, that the audit-dinners were, in general, very extravagant, a motion was made, and unanimously agreed to, that, in future, the expenses of auditing the city and bridge-house accounts, do not exceed fifty pounds.

A motion was also made, that the chamberlain do not pay the lord mayor more than the sum of three hundred and fifty-two pounds nineteen shillings, the balance due to his lordship, out of the ample allowance given by the city. The lord mayor refused to put the question for some time, but, having consented, it was resolved in the affirmative.

On the 26th, the court proceeded in the plan of retrenchment they had begun, and limited the expenses of the courts of conservancy to three hundred pounds, in every mayoralty. It was also resolved, that no money be paid out of the chamber, without the special direction of the court of common-council.

CHAP. XLV.

Trial of Lord George Gordon.—Committee to inquire into the City Expenditure.—-The Damages sustained in the Riots levied upon the Inhabitants.—-The Lord Mayor found guilty of Misconduct in the Time of the Riots.-—Petition to Parliament, for Assistance to re-build Newgate.—Further Consideration of the Expenses of the last Mayoralty.—An Election for a Member of Parliament prevents the swearing the new Sheriffs.—Refusal of his Majesty to receive the Remonstrance of the Livery on the Throne.—-Change in Administration.—-Address of Thanks.—Action against a Freeman, who had not served an Apprenticeship.—-New Sessions-house opened.—Settlement of the Claim of the Common-council to be admitted Governors of the Royal Foundations.—-Company of Shipwrights admitted to their Livery.—Preliminaries of Peace signed.—-Discontents of the Sailors.—-Petition against the Receipt Tax.—Claim of the Jews to be admitted Freemen.—Proclamation of Peace.—New Mode of Execution.—-Total Change of Ministry.—Addresses to his Majesty in consequence.—The Freedom of the City presented to Mr. Pitt.—-He is elegantly entertained at Grocers'-hall.—-The Fleet-prison rated to the Poor.-—Dissolution of Parliament.—-Contested Election for Westminster.--City Scrutiny.--Commemoration of Handel.—First Aerial Voyage.

THE trial of Lord George Gordon for high treason took place in the court of King's-bench, on the 5th of February, 1778. He was charged, as the author of the late riots, with "levying war, by assembling great multitudes together, and striving, by terror and outrage, to compel parliament to repeal a law." The trial lasted from eight o'clock in the morning to near six in the following morning, when the jury brought in a verdict of acquittal. The burst of applause which took place, on this, was very great:

after it had subsided, Lord George addressed the jury, in confirmation of his innocence, and stating, that he had been the object of a wicked and infamous persecution; but he was checked by one of the jurors, who told him, that their decision had turned upon a very nice point. Lord George then left the hall, attended by his brothers.

A vacancy having occurred for the office of treasurer to the hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, by the death of Nathaniel Thomas, Esq. a court of common-council was held, on the 28th of February, for filling it up. Previous to the election, a resolution was entered into, that whosoever should be elected, do give five thousand pounds security for the faithful discharge of the duty; after which, Brass Crosby, Esq. and Alderman, was unanimously chosen to the office.

In the same court a committee was voted, to consist of six aldermen and twelve commoners, to be ballotted for at the next court, who were to inquire into and report to the court the state of the annual revenue and expenditure of the city, together with their opinion whether any and what regulations are proper and necessary to be made for increasing the one or lessening the other.

The court of King's-bench was much employed, in the beginning of March, with actions for damages sustained during the riots. They were brought against the magistrates of the districts where the injury was committed, to obtain a compensation from the inhabitants of them, according to the provisions of the riot act. The quantum of damages was, in most cases, the only point for the consideration of the juries; and when the amount of these was ascertained, a pound-rate was levied upon the inhabitants for the payment.

An information filed *ex officio* by the attorney general against Mr. Alderman Kennet, charging him with wilfully, obstinately, and perversely, neglecting, as lord mayor of the city of London, on Sunday, the 4th of June, to use the necessary means, and not exercising his authority to quell the rioters in Ropemakers' Alley, Moorfields, when present at the head of military assistance, and for not reading the riot act, was tried at Guildhall, before Lord Mansfield and a special jury. After a long trial, the jury withdrew, and, in about an hour, returned with a verdict of guilty of neglecting to do his duty, but not wilfully and obstinately. The judge had left the court, and the clerk refused to record this verdict, on which the jury went to Lord Mansfield, at his house, who told them the verdict must be general guilty or not guilty. It was then given generally "guilty."

At a court of common-council, held on the 4th of May, it was agreed to petition parliament for assistance towards rebuilding the prison of Newgate, and a committee was appointed to prosecute the same, with power to draw on the chamber for any sum not exceeding three hundred pounds.

The subject of the expenses attendant on the late lord mayor's excursion to Windsor under the name of a court of conservancy was again brought forward in the court of common-council, on the 16th of June, when the resolution of the court, of the 2d of October preceding, to prohibit the chamberlain from paying more than three hundred and fifty-two pounds nineteen shillings to the then lord mayor, as the balance due to him for the expenses of his mayoralty, was rescinded; it being the opinion of very able lawyers that he could recover his whole demand by an action at law. A resolution was then passed, "that one thousand pounds be paid to Brackley Kennet, Esq. in lieu of all demands he may have on this city on account of his mayoralty.

A vacancy having occurred for the representation of the city of London by the death of Mr. Hayley, an election for his successor commenced the 24th of September, which, being likely to continue beyond the 29th, the day of swearing in the new sheriffs, it became a question whether the sheriffs who began the poll could hold over till its close, or whether the new sheriffs could make a return to the writ, if they were permitted to act from the time of their being sworn in; but as the decision of this point might have been productive of litigation, the recorder and common-serjeant advised a meeting of the common-council, to absolve the gentlemen who had entered into recognizance to take the office, from their bonds, and afterwards to call the livery together and proceed to a new election of sheriffs, by which means the old sheriffs would necessarily be kept in office beyond the time of the poll for member of parliament: this advice being approved of was carried into execution, and a court of hustings being held on the 4th of October, the same gentlemen were re-chosen and sworn into that office.

At the end of this year a petition, address, and remonstrance to the king was voted in common-hall, and the usual deputation appointed to wait upon his majesty to know when he would receive it. This produced a letter from the lord-chamberlain to the lord-mayor, informing him that his majesty was not to receive the remonstrance on the throne: in consequence of which, a common hall was held on the 1st of February, 1782, in which it was resolved, "That whoever advised the king to deviate from the accustomed mode, admitted by his majesty, of receiving the livery of London sitting on his throne, is an enemy to the rights and privileges of the citizens of this great capital of the British empire," and a committee was appointed for the purpose of obtaining a restoration of these rights.

But this breach between the court and city was not of long duration. A complete change in administration took place in March; and on the 12th of April, an address of thanks on the occasion was presented to his majesty by the lord-mayor, 12 aldermen, the recorder, and about 150 common-council, attended by all the city officers.

A cause was tried at Hicks's-hall in that month, of considerable importance to the rights of the freemen of the city companies. The prosecution was instituted by one of the companies against a tradesman admitted to his freedom by themselves, for carrying on his trade without having served an apprenticeship to it, contrary to the statute of Queen Elizabeth. On the trial, however, it was proved that, although the defendant had not served a regular apprenticeship, he had acquired a sufficient knowledge of the trade to enable him to exercise it with skill, which was held to be within the meaning of the statute, and a verdict was given for the defendant.

The new sessions-house for the county of Midsex was opened on the 1st of July, by Mr. Mainwaring, chairman of the bench of justices, who delivered a very copious, comprehensive, and explicit charge to the grand jury, as soon as they were sworn. The magistrates, who were ten in number, then proceeded to the dispatch of business as usual.

A dispute had subsisted for some years between the common-council of London, and the acting governors of the royal foundations of St. Bartholomew's, Christ's, Bridewell, and Bethlem, and St. Thomas's Hospitals, relative to the right of the former to participate in the government. At length, an amicable compromise took place between them, in pursuance of which an act of parliament was passed, and received the royal assent in the beginning of this month, empowering the common-council to appoint twelve of their own number to be governors of each of these foundations respectively, who were to remain so while they continued members of the common-council.

A court of aldermen was held on the 8th of October, to receive the report of a committee appointed to examine the merits of a petition from the company of shipwrights, praying to be allowed their livery. The report stated that the free shipwrights were an ancient company, they having traced the inrolment of an apprentice as far back as the reign of Richard II. and that, therefore, it was the opinion of the committee that they ought to have livery; with which opinion the court coincided, and precepts were ordered to be issued accordingly in future.

About this time the depredations committed in and about the metropolis, by footpads and street-robbers, had encreased to such a height, and were attended with such peculiar circumstances of atrocity, that severe measures were found necessary to check them. Accordingly, a letter was sent from the secretary of state to the recorder, directing him to report all cases of robbery, accompanied by acts of cruelty, to his majesty, immediately after conviction, who had determined to grant no pardon or respite to such offenders, on any solicitation whatever.

Circular letters were also sent to the magistrates of the different districts, commanding them to employ their utmost care and vigilance in the suppression of night-houses, and other places of resort for the idle and dissolute.

Preliminaries of peace having been signed at Paris on the 20th of January, 1783, a letter was sent to the lord-mayor on the arrival of the messenger, to acquaint him with this pleasing event.

Great discontents prevailed among the sailors in the month of March of this year, on account of the numbers of foreigners who, having been taken into the merchant service during the war, and being still continued therein, prevented the men discharged from the king's service from procuring employment. Being thus deprived of the means of obtaining a livelihood, they attacked some vessels in the river, and unrigged them, and at length assembled in a considerable body, determined to proceed to the Admiralty, and afterwards to St. James's, to seek redress. On their approach, all the entrances into the park were shut and guarded; but about seven hundred of them scaled the walls on the Westminster side. As soon as they were discovered in the Bird-cage walk, a detachment of the guards was ordered to meet them. On their approach near each other, a conversation took place between some of the sailors, Justice Addington, and the officer of the guard; when the sailors informed them, that they sought only for some means of future employment, and this they meant to do peaceably: on which the magistrate informed them, that the meeting of such large bodies was dangerous and illegal; but that, if they would draw up a clear account of their wants and grievances, he would endeavour to get them redressed; with which they appeared to be perfectly satisfied, and retired with regularity and order.

On the 11th of June, the sheriffs presented a petition to the House of Commons from the citizens of London, complaining of the bill pending in that house for laying a stamp duty on receipts, and praying to be heard by counsel against it. This produced a long and animated debate, in which the right of the city to have their petitions received without a previous notification of their contents, was acknowledged, though the privilege was stated to be of little value, since the house might chuse whether they would take them into consideration or not; but, notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of the lord-mayor to obtain permission for counsel to be heard against it, that part of their prayer was rejected on a division by 178 to 15.

At a court of aldermen held on the 22d of July, the recorder and common-serjeant made a report on the long pending cause referred to their consideration respecting the Jews, whether they can legally claim the freedom of this city, and exercise the rights and franchises of freemen. Their opinion was, that Jews publicly baptized, and conforming to the laws of the country, may, after the renunciation of their errors, be entitled to the privileges of citizens of London.

On the 29th of August, a letter was sent by the secretary of state to the lord mayor, informing him that the definitive treaties of peace were to be signed on the 3d of September; and, on the arrival of the news that this event had actually taken place, a second letter was sent, in order that public notice thereof might be given in the city; and, on the 6th of October, peace was proclaimed with the usual solemnities, amidst an innumerable concourse of people, who testified their joy by loud and reiterated acclamations.

The mode of executing criminals at Tyburn had long been complained of as tending rather to introduce depravity, by a want of solemnity, than to operate as a preventative of crimes, by exhibiting an awful example of punishment to the dissolute. To remedy this serious evil in the police of the metropolis, both the place and manner of execution were changed. A temporary scaffold was constructed, ed, to be placed as occasion required in the open space before the debtor's door of Newgate, having a moveable platform for the criminals to stand on, which, by means of a lever and rollers, falls from under them. The whole of this building is hung with black, and the regulations which are observed on these mournful occasions are calculated to produce that impression on the minds of the spectators, which is the true end of all punishment. The first execution here took place on the 9th of December.

Few political questions ever agitated the whole kingdom more powerfully than the change of administration, which took place at the end of the year 1784. It would be incompatible with the design of this work to enter into the detail of the causes from which this change arose, the means by which it was effected, or the consequences which resulted from it. Suffice it, therefore, to observe, that on the 18th of December, at twelve o'clock at night, a message from his majesty was delivered to Lord North and Mr. Fox, the two secretaries of state, importing that he had no farther occasion for their services; and directing that the seals of office should be delivered to him by the under secretaries, as a personal interview would be disagreeable. This was followed by the dismissal or resignation of nearly all the ministry, and Mr. Pitt was appointed first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer.

From this period until the month of March was exhibited the singular spectacle of a minister in a constant minority, yet retaining his situation through the support of the king and the nation, in despight of reiterated petitions and representations from the House of Commons to the throne to procure his dismissal.

In such a conjuncture, the city of London could not be expected to be inactive. Accordingly, an

adddress

address of thanks, from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to his majesty, for dismissing his late counsellors, was presented, on the 16th of January; containing the strongest assurances of their determination to support him in the constitutional exercise of his prerogatives. This address was very graciously received. Similar addresses were presented from the merchants and traders of London, the city of Westminster, the borough of Southwark, the county of Middlesex, and many other places.

The freedom of the city was also presented to Mr. Pitt, and, on the 28th of February, an elegant entertainment was provided for him at Grocers'-hall, of which company he had accepted the freedom; to which he went in procession, attended by the committee appointed to present him with the freedom of the city, the sheriffs, and the town-clerk. At Temple-bar, they were met by the city colours, and those of the Grocers' company. In the evening there was an illumination: many windows were broken by the mob, on his return from the city; and, in St. James's-street, an affray happened between them and some chairmen, at Brookes's, in which the latter proved victorious, and Mr. Pitt was obliged to quit his carriage, and retire to White's for protection. His coach was much injured, and, in revenge, the mob that dragged it, went and broke Mr. Fox's windows, in St. James's-place.

A cause came on, in the court of King's-bench, in the course of this month, on an appeal from the sessions, to determine whether the Fleet-prison was rateable to the poor; which was argued before a full bench of the judges, who were unanimously of opinion that it was liable.

The great and memorable contest, between administration and the House of Commons, having been so far determined in favour of the former, that a long mutiny bill was passed, without which a dissolution of parliament could not have taken place; it was thought most adviseable to have recourse to that measure, in order to get at the true sense of the nation. Accordingly, the parliament was dissolved on the 25th of March. In the general election, which followed, the ministry gained a most complete and numerous majority; but it was impossible that they could succeed every where. The struggle for the representation of the city of Westminster, was as obstinate as that which had taken place in the house. The election commenced on the 1st of April, and was continued, with various success, until the 17th of May; when it was necessarily terminated by the meeting of parliament on the following day. But, though an end was put to the poll, no members were returned: a scrutiny was demanded, and granted; which, consequently, compelled the high-bailiff to make a special statement of the events of the election, and the impossibility of his making the usual return. It cannot be supposed, that an election by so numerous a body, and carried on for so long a time, should be unaccompanied with extraordinary circumstances; but it will be unnecessary to dwell upon them here, since, by a subsequent act of parliament, for regulating the duration of elections, the recurrence of them is prevented in future.

The city election terminated on the 6th of April; but, when the sheriffs met at Guildhall, on the 10th, to declare the numbers on the poll, it appeared that Alderman Sawbridge, the lowest of the successful candidates, had polled 2823, and Mr. Atkinson, 2816; on which a scrutiny was demanded by the latter. It is remarkable, that the last scrutiny for the city happened exactly fifty years before, viz. on the 9th of April, 1734, and the majority was then, as now, 7; the numbers being, for Bosworth, 3326; for Selwyn, 3319.

The grandest musical performance ever attempted in any country, was exhibited in Westminster Abbey, in May and June, of this year, in commemoration of Handel. It originated in a conversation between some amateurs, in which it was lamented, that no public occasion existed for collecting all the vocal and instrumental performers of eminence into one band, which would produce a performance on so grand and magnificent a scale, as no other part of the world could equal. The birth and death of Handel, the former of which was a complete century, and the latter exactly a quarter of a century, before this period, was immediately recollected as offering a desirable opportunity for making the attempt. The plan was speedily communicated to the different musical societies in the metropolis, and coming, at length, to the knowledge of the king, was honoured with his sanction and patronage. Westminster Abbey, where the remains of the great musician were deposited, was thought the properest place for the performance; and it was determined to appropriate all the profits arising from it to charitable purposes. No sooner was the project known, than the greater part of the practical musicians in the kingdom manifested their zeal for the enterprise; and many of the most eminent professors, waving all claim to precedence, offered to perform in any subordinate station. The first performance took place on the 26th of May; the number of performers amounted to five hundred and twenty-two, and that of the audience to nearly five thousand; of which, at least, two thirds were ladies; feathers and all extraneous ornaments being forbidden, the neatness and simplicity of their dresses added charms to their natural beauty, and produced such an assemblage of fine women, as no other country in the universe could boast of. There were five performances in the whole, the second of which was at the Pantheon; and the total amount of the receipts for tickets, including two rehearsals, was eleven thousand eight hundred and forty-two guineas: after payment of the expenses, which amounted to upwards of five thousand pounds, the remainder was given to charities, as follows: to the Musical Fund, six thousand pounds; to the Westminster Hospital, one thousand pounds.

The attention of the metropolis was excited in a high degree, on the 15th of September, by the first aerial voyage ever undertaken in this kingdom. Mr. Lunardi ascended from the Artillery-ground with a balloon, thirty-three feet in diameter, amidst the admiration and dread of an immense concourse of spectators, about two o'clock in the afternoon; and, after a voyage of three hours, descended in a meadow, five miles beyond Ware, in Hertfordshire.

CHAP. XLVI.

CHAP. XLVI.

Termination of the Westminster Scrutiny.—Alarm in Westminster-hall.—-Bill for regulating the Police.—Case of Alderman Wooldridge.--Opposition to the Shop-tax.—Increase of the Recorder's Salary.—-Fire in the Chamberlain's Office.—-Cause relative to the Navigation of the Thames.—Election of Auditors.—Attempt on the King's Life.—-Salary to the Bailiff of Southwark.—-The City Rights infringed by the proposed Commercial Treaty.—Disputes with the Surrey Magistrates, relative to the Jurisdiction of the Borough.—-Rupture in the Channel of the New River.—Petition against Forestalling.—Forged Extraordinary Gazette.—Armament.—Press-warrants.—Petition against the Slave-trade.—Fire in the Savoy.—Great Fall of Rain.—Westminster Election.—Illness of the King.—Severe Frost.—Recovery of his Majesty.—Rejoicings.—-Addresses of Congratulation.—-General Thanksgiving.—Royal Procession to St. Paul's—Splendid Illuminations.--Repeal of the Shop-tax.--The Opera House burnt.—Election of a Recorder.

Early in the year 1785, the proceedings on the Westminster scrutiny were brought before the House of Commons, with a view to obtain an order for its discontinuance; but it was not until after several petitions from the inhabitants had been presented, and three warm debates, that the house acquiesced, and, on the 3d of March, ordered the high bailiff to make a return. The votes of only two parishes had been investigated, although eight months had elapsed; and, during this time, the unsuccessful candidate had only reduced his opponent's majority by eighteen.

A remarkable occurrence happened in Westminster-hall, during the sitting of the court of King's-bench, on the 22d of April. In consequence of a very high wind, some of the stones from the upper part of the building fell through the sky-light; the fragments of the glass fell among the judges on the bench, and a considerable part of the ceiling was scattered about among the barristers and officers of the court. Impressed with the idea that the whole fabric was tumbling, their lordships, and all the bar, made a precipitate retreat; but, soon finding that it was a premature alarm, the court was resumed. In this confusion, several gentlemen of the bar were much hurt; particularly a Mr. Stebbing, who, being thrown backwards over one of the benches, was trampled over by his affrighted brethren, and received several severe bruises. Such an accident never happened before in the great hall of pleas.

In the month of June, a bill was introduced into the House of Commons, for regulating the police of the metropolis, which was understood to be the production of a gentleman who had taken uncommon pains with it, and had consulted those best enabled to assist in maturing such a plan: but it was not fortunate enough to obtain the approbation of the corporation of the city of London. A petition was presented from the court of aldermen, complaining in high terms of the projected measure. Their alarm was represented, by one of their body, to be equal to that which would have been excited, if a general conflagration had been begun in the city of London. The petition stated, that, under colour of correcting abuses, the bill overturned the forms established by the wisdom of our ancestors, and effected an entire subversion of the chartered rights of the greatest city in the world.

It was in vain urged, that the commissioners appointed by the bill would have no power within the jurisdiction of the corporation of London; that it was expressly provided, that no warrant from them should be executed in the city, until it was backed by the lord mayor, or one of the aldermen, and that, when executed, the person apprehended in virtue of it, was ordered to be carried before some of the city magistrates: nothing could allay the apprehensions of a body so tenacious of their privileges; and, in the end, their opposition proved fatal to the bill.

The long-contested question, relative to the power of the court of aldermen to remove one of their body, was finally determined in the court of King's-bench, on the 11th of June. Some years before, in consequence of several accusations brought against Alderman Wooldridge, repeated summonses were sent to him, to attend in his place in the court of aldermen, to answer to them; all of which being unattended to, he was declared to have forfeited his seat, and a wardmote was held for the election of an alderman in his stead. At a subsequent period he attended, and claimed to be received as alderman; which being refused, he obtained a *mandamus* from the court of King's-bench, to be restored: the return to this mandamus had been argued in November preceding, but the court required further time to decide upon it; and, on this day, the final argument was heard, when the court unanimously pronounced judgment in favour of the city, declaring their opinion, that the court of aldermen had the power to remove one of the aldermen, upon a just and reasonable cause; and that, in the present instance, their exercise of that right was perfectly legal.

Among the taxes laid on by parliament, for the service of the year 1785, was one for charging a duty upon shops, which experienced a most determined opposition from the inhabitants of London and Westminster. The resistance to it, on the part of the citizens, was so great, that, when the commissioners appointed to carry it into execution, met at Guildhall, on the 6th of July, for that purpose, a motion was made, and carried in the affirmative, by a majority of 50 to 4, to adjourn the consideration of the act until the last day of September. This adjournment, however, did not prevent some of the commissioners from qualifying themselves, as was intended it should; for which reason, at a court of common-council, held in September, a resolution was passed to submit a case, for the opinion of counsel, Whether the commissioners, now pretending to be qualified to act under the shop-tax act, have any legal power, distinct from the commissioners at large, to direct an assessment to be made and levied, previous to the day to which the consideration of that act was adjourned? A motion was likewise made, and carried, to direct the hall-keeper, not to permit the persons presuming to act as commissioners to meet in Guildhall, until the opinion of counsel was known.

In a few days after, the minority of the commissioners attempted to go into the council-chamber, at Guildhall, but were refused admittance; on which they seated themselves on the hustings, and were proceeding to business, when Mr. Merry, who had moved the resolution for denying them the use of the hall, passing through, and observing them, demanded their business there? Words ensued, which were followed by blows, and, in the end, Mr. Merry tore their papers, and threw them, with their pens and ink, over the rail, into the hall. Both parties were taken before the lord mayor, who was holding a session, assisted by the recorder and several of the aldermen. His lordship, however, declined giving any opinion on the business, and advised the parties either to make it up, or refer it to a jury.

On the 30th, the commissioners met pursuant to their adjournment, when the opinion of the recorder and common-serjeant was laid before them; which was, that those who had qualified had acted legally, and that the others had put it out of their own power to qualify, except under them; and that the corporation of London were masters of Guildhall, and had an undoubted right to prevent any persons assembling there, whenever they thought proper. As this opinion rendered the proceedings of the majority ineffectual to prevent the execution of the act, the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

At a court of common-council, held on the 22d of October, the recorder's salary was increased, by unanimous consent, to one thousand pounds per annum.

A common-hall was held, on the 4th of November, for the purpose of coming to some resolutions with respect to the shop-tax; when those submitted by Alderman Skinner, expressive of the inequality and grievous burthen of the tax, were unanimously agreed to.

And, on the 15th of December, the retail shopkeepers met at the London-tavern, and agreed to petition parliament for a repeal of the tax.

Early in the morning of the 7th of February, 1786, a fire broke out in a room adjoining to the chamberlain's office, in Guildhall, and, notwithstanding speedy assistance, burnt so furiously for some time, that the whole of that office was destroyed, together with all the books of accounts, several bonds, and a considerable sum in bank-notes and cash. Part of the court of King's-bench was also damaged; but the fire was at length got under, without communicating to the other offices.

A cause was tried, at the Lent azzizes for the county of Surrey, which lasted three days. It was brought by the corporation of the city of London, as conservators of the river Thames, against a ship-wright at Rotherhithe, for obstructing the navigation by erecting a floating dock: the jury, after five hours deliberation, found the defendant guilty.

Some extraordinary circumstances attended the election of auditors on Midsummer day. It has been the immemorial usage of the city of London to have four auditors, the two senior of whom go out in rotation every year, and two new ones are elected; but on this occasion, Messrs. Tomlins and Loveland, who had served two years, refused to be removed, and their friends supported their re-election. The recorder explained the law to the common-hall, but the livery would not acquiesce in the explanation, and persisted in their right to choose them. In this dilemma the sheriffs thought it adviseable to return the whole six to the court of aldermen, with a declaration that the majority of hands were in favour of the four old ones; but that, by the law and usage of the city, the two first were ineligible. A poll was, however, demanded by them, which also terminated in their favour; yet, as after a diligent investigation of the city records for several hundred years, their election was found to be contrary to the city laws, the other four were declared duly elected.

The business came afterwards before the court of King's-bench, on a rule to show cause why a *mandamus* should not be directed to the lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London, to admit Mr. Tomlins to the office of one of the auditors of the said city; when the affidavits on the part of the court of aldermen proved the immemorial existence of the custom, which was further strengthened by an act of common-council in the reign of one of the Edwards; for which reason the court refused the mandamus, and the custom was established as the *lex loci* of the city.

An attempt having been made on the life of the king, by a woman named Nicholson, who, under pretence of presenting a petition, struck at him with a concealed knife, an humble and affectionate address of congratulation from the lord-mayor, aldermen, and commons of the city of London, was presented to his Majesty on the 11th of August, which was most graciously received. The procession, on the occasion, was uncommonly numerous ; the lord-mayor being attended by most of the aldermen, the two sheriffs, the recorder, and other city officers, and between two and three hundred of the common-council.

At a court of common-council held on the 15th of November, a report from the committee of bye-laws, recommending a salary of seven hundred pounds per annum to Sir Watkin Lewis, the bailiff of Southwark, in lieu of fees, was taken into consideration. Debates ensued, in the course of which, the report was severely censured; but it was at length carried, on a division, to allow five hundred pounds per annum, until the decision of a suit, which was pending between the city and the sheriff of Surrey, respecting the jurisdiction of the city within the borough of Southwark.

A commercial treaty with France was in the course of negotiation in the latter part of this year, by some of the provisions of which, the right of package, scavage and balliage of the city of London would have been taken away, as well as the rights of the fellowship and all other free porters, free watermen, lightermen, &c. On the discovery of which, a committee of the court of aldermen were appointed to make the necessary representations on the subject to Mr. Pitt, who gave them an assurance, that, although their rights would have been unintentionally invaded and taken away, if this application had not been made; yet, being now fully possessed of them, he should certainly think it his duty to protect them in the most ample manner.

At a quarter sessions of the peace held at St. Margaret's-hill, Southwark, in January 1787, the magistrates of the county of Surrey came to resolutions respecting the city's claim of jurisdiction in the borough of Southwark to the following effect: That the town and borough of Southwark has always been part of the county of Surrey; and that its inhabitants have been, and ought to be, subject to the authority of the magistrates of the said county: That the mayor, commonalty and citizens of London have not a right to hold general or other sessions of the peace within the same: That the sheriff of the county of Surrey has had the execution of all writs, &c. within the said town and borough, and that, therefore, the county ought and will defend any suit brought against him or his officers by the mayor and citizens of London. And a committee was appointed to manage the defence and assert the rights of the county.

On the other side, at a court of common-council, held on the 25th of January, the resolutions of the Surrey magistrates were taken into consideration, and the following counter resolutions were passed: That the town and borough of Southwark, having been granted by various charters to the mayor, commonalty and citizens of London, is, and ought to be, subject to their jurisdiction: That the mayor, recorder, and aldermen who have passed the chair, have a right to hold sessions of the peace within the said town and borough: That the interference of the sheriff of the county of Surrey, in the execution of writs, &c. is an infringement of the liberties of this city, and a violation of the express words of the charters: That this court will maintain and support this city's rights and privileges within the said town and borough; and it was referred to the committee of bye-laws to take such proper measures as they should be advised.

The old custom of meeting the judges at church on the first Sunday in term, was revived in Hilary term of this year; on which occasion the lord-mayor, twelve aldermen, and the two sheriffs, met Lord Loughborough, five of the judges, the recorder, and serjeants at law, at St. Paul's. After the service, they proceeded to the mansion-house, and were elegantly entertained by the lord mayor.

In the afternoon of the 13th of April, in consequence of a breach in an arch turned to support the course of the New River, the whole of the water of it made its way into Hackney-brook, which it swelled so much as to occasion the overflowing of all the neighbouring low lands. Fortunately, this accident happened in the day-time; in consequence of which, all the labourers employed on the different parts of the river, near the spot, were set to work upon it, and, by forming a new temporary channel, till the arch could be repaired, prevented the damage from spreading so much as it must have done, had it occurred during the night.

On the 4th of May, a petition was presented to the House of Commons, from the lord mayor, aldermen, and council, for leave to bring in a bill or bills, to prevent forestalling and regrating, and for licensing salesmen, factors, and others, employed in the sale of cattle or other provisions.

This petition originated in the different reports received from a committee appointed in the latter part of the preceding year, to take into consideration the causes of the high price of provisions. From their resolutions, which were presented at different times, it appeared that the number of cattle and sheep, brought to Smithfield-market, had decreased to a very considerable degree, during the last two or three years, in consequence of the practice of forestalling, at places in the vicinity of the metropolis; and that, by comparing the prices of meat, at other corporation towns, with those at London, the difference appeared to be much greater than the expense and risk of bringing provisions to town required. For these, and many other subordinate reasons, they, therefore, recommend an application to the legislature, to prevent the continuance of these evils.

The pernicious practice of gambling, in the Alley, produced a singular attempt to affect the price of stocks, on the 22d of this month, which was, however, defeated by the clumsy manner in which it was executed: an old woman was sent to the Royal Exchange, about noon, to cry an Extraordinary Gazette, which was printed on stamped paper, and had every external appearance of being genuine; but the singularity of its publication being confined to one person, soon led to the discovery of the deception, and the vender was apprehended; however, on examination, she appeared to have been the dupe of a man, who had given them to her, with strict injunctions not to sell them before she came to the Exchange; she was therefore discharged.

In consequence of advices received by government, of some hostile preparations, and movements of the French, press-warrants were issued on the 21st of September; and, on the 2d of October, the lord mayor had a meeting with the first lord of the Admiralty, on the subject of backing them by the city magistrates. At this conference, the lord mayor stated his doubts of the legality of such warrants in the city; but this objection being over-ruled by the authority of the crown lawyers, he urged his want of authority, without the concurrence of his fellow-citizens legally assembled, and therefore desired time. This being agreed to, his lordship called a court of common-council, on the 11th, to whom he reported the substance of his conference with Lord Howe, and recommended the adoption of some measure for encouraging seamen in the city, to enter voluntarily into his majesty's service: on which it was resolved to give a bounty of forty shillings to every able, and twenty shillings to every ordinary seaman, who should enter. Notice of this resolution being communicated to the lords of the Admiralty, a letter was returned, expressive of his majesty's approbation and acceptance of the offer.

Notwithstanding this proceeding, however, some press-warrants were executed in the city, without the authority of the lord mayor, which produced an inquiry in the court of aldermen, when it turned out, that they had been circulated through the secondaries' office; on which the sheriffs were desired not to suffer them to be issued in future.

This prospect of hostility was not of long duration: in consequence of mutual explanations, it was agreed to reduce the navies on both sides to a peace establishment; and, on this arrangement taking place, it appeared, that the whole amount of bounties, paid by the chamber of London, did not exceed five hundred pounds.

At a court of common-council, held on the 1st of February, 1788, a petition to the House of Commons, against the slave-trade, was unanimously agreed to; as was another, for a repeal of the shop-tax.

The Savoy-prison was discovered to be on fire, in the afternoon of the 14th of April, which, on inquiry, was found to be wilfully done, by a desperate set of deserters, who were there, in confinement, with a view to have made their escape in the confusion. On the alarm being given, the guard drove the incendiaries into a cell, where they were suffered to remain, with the prison burning about them, till the fire was extinguished, when they were conveyed to different prisons. Several of them were severely wounded before they submitted.

A greater fall of rain began, about four o'clock in the afternoon of the 26th of June, and continued, incessantly, for two hours, accompanied by some tremendous claps of thunder, than had been remembered in London for many years. The streets were totally impassable to foot-passengers; and, near Northumberland-house, where Saint Martin's-lane joins the Strand, the current ran so strong, that carriages durst not venture through it. At the bottom of Northumberland-street, such a stoppage took place, that the lower part of a house was blown up, as was the pavement, half-way over the street. Great damage was done, and much property destroyed.

During the fall of rain, a ball of fire burst, about the middle of George-street, broke the windows of several houses, and entered one house, where it split a cupboard in the parlour, defaced some pictures, and melted part of the water-pipe in the kitchen: and, about five o'clock, part of the wall in Tower-ditch gave way, to the length of upwards of twenty yards.

Lord Hood having vacated his seat for Westminster, by accepting the office of one of the Lords of the Admiralty, the election was fixed for the 18th of July; when he was opposed by Lord John Townshend, who had a majority of 823, at the close of the poll, on the 4th of August. Never was party virulence more conspicuous, than on this election; the consequences of which were such mobs, riots, and disturbances, as were disgraceful to all concerned.

On the 2d of October, a considerable number of inhabitants of the Borough, freemen of London, met at St. Margaret's-hill, and drew up an address to the lord mayor and corporation of London, praying that the freemen, in that part of their jurisdiction, whose rights had long lain dormant, may be restored, and that the lord mayor would be pleased to issue precepts for electing a competent number of common-council-men, to represent them in the city of London.

The close of this year was marked by an event, which occasioned grief and consternation in all ranks of a loyal and affectionate people. Early in October, his majesty was attacked with the first symptoms of a disorder, which was at first supposed to be rheumatic, and the proper methods were employed to remove it from the stomach to the extremities. On the 24th of that month, he had a levee at St. James's, for the purpose of quieting the alarm which the report of his indisposition had spread; but, shortly after, his disorder took a new and unfortunate turn, and, before the end of the first week in November, it was generally known, that it had settled into a constant delirium. The day appointed for the meeting of parliament was fast approaching, and no power existed, which could either prorogue it farther, or open it. In this conjuncture, all, who by their rank and situation in the state were required to take a part in so new and unexpected an exigence, assembled in the capital, waiting the event in awful expectation.

It is not within the scope of this history, to enter into the discussion of the measures proposed for supplying the temporary deficiency in the regal power, except for the purpose of recording the sentiments of the citizens of London on the subject.

It will, therefore, be sufficient to observe, that, a question having been raised in the House of Commons, on the right of the Prince of Wales to exercise the full powers of sovereign, during his father's indisposition, it was opposed by Mr. Pitt and the administration, who contended for a restricted regency; and, on a division, this opinion was carried, by 268 to 204. On the day following, it was moved in the court of common-council, "that the thanks of this court be given to the Right Honourable William Pitt, and the 267 worthy members of the House of Commons, for their strenuous support of the important rights of the lords and commons of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, arising from his majesty's indisposition:" which, after great debates, was carried in the affirmative: and, on the 7th of January, a similar resolution was voted by a very numerous meeting of the merchants, bankers, and traders of London.

This winter was remarkable for a very severe frost, which began on the 25th of November, and lasted exactly seven weeks. The greatest cold was on the 5th of January, when the thermometer stood at eleven degrees below the freezing point, in the middle of the city. During this frost the Thames was completely frozen over below London-bridge, and was covered with booths, puppet-shews, and wild-beasts, so as to have the appearance of a fair. The watermen being deprived of their usual means of obtaining a livelihood, broke the ice close to the shore and laid planks across the openings, which they suffered no one to pass without paying. On the evening of the thaw, which came very suddenly, the confusion on the sides was extreme, but no accident of any consequence occurred.

The scene on the Thames, after the breaking of the frost, was dreadful beyond example; the large bodies of ice floating on the river made it necessary to moor all the ships to the shore; many, however, drifted, and one lying off Rotherhithe, was so pressed by the strength of the tide and the weight of ice, that it carried away the beams of a house to which it was fastened, and levelled it with the ground, by which accident five persons asleep in their beds were killed.

During this inclement season, the distresses of the poor were not forgotten. Liberal subscriptions were entered into by the affluent for their relief, and a court of common-council met on the 13th of January, to take the state of the poor into consideration, when the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds was ordered to be paid out of the city cash, for the relief of such poor inhabitants as did not receive alms of the parish. At this court, a letter was read from the Prince of Wales's treasurer to the chamberlain, inclosing his royal highness's draft for one thousand pounds, to be applied in the same manner as his majesty's bounty had usually been; but which, from the unfortunate state of the king's health, was this year delayed. On which it was unanimously resolved to return the grateful acknowledgments of the court to his royal highness, for his spontaneous and truly princely beneficence.

His majesty's gradual restoration to health became apparent early in the month of February; the first decisive report of the physicians to that effect was, however, made on the 12th; on which day a court of common-council was met for settling the various committees. While they were employed in this business, the report was brought to the lord-mayor, who interrupted the proceedings to read it. It stated that his majesty was "in a progressive state of amendment;"

ment;" which joyful intelligence was received with an involuntary emotion of applause throughout the court.

The 10th of March was the day appointed for making an official declaration of his majesty's complete recovery. In the morning, the bells rang in all the churches; and, at noon, the Park and Tower-guns were fired. On the river, every vessel was decorated with the colours of the nation to which it belonged. French, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Prussian, Russian, Dane, and Swede vied with each other in exhibiting tokens of joy; many of them had devices on their streamers, with the words *Long live the King*, in large capitals, either at the mast head, or on the bow-sprit.

Of the illuminations at night, it is impossible to give an adequate description. They were literally general: all the inhabitants seemed to strive who should give the most beautiful and picturesque devices, and who testify their loyalty in the most conspicuous manner. In short, so general was the tribute of affection to our beloved monarch, that, could he have surveyed the splendour, and witnessed every accompanying demonstration of gladness, he would have quitted the scene with as proud feelings as ever animated the bosom of a king. It was a trophy that reflected as much true dignity on the sovereign, as it did honour to the nation.

On the 19th, the city addresses of congratulation to the king and queen were presented. It was his majesty's particular request that, on this occasion, when the pressure of the national business bore heavy upon him, the numerous attendance of the court of common-council might be dispensed with; in consequence of which, the court came to a resolution that the addresses should be presented by the lord-mayor and sheriffs, assisted by the recorder.

Addresses to their majesties, on this happy event, were also voted in a common-hall, held on the 7th of April,

The 23d of April being appointed, by royal proclamation, to be observed as a day of general thanksgiving, his majesty was pleased to go in public to the cathedral church of St. Paul, accompanied by the queen, the royal family, both houses of parliament, the great officers of state, and the whole corporation of London. The universal joy and loyalty which pervaded the cities of London and Westminster, the grandeur of the spectacle exhibited, in the more than triumphal, the religious entry of our beloved sovereign, filled the mind with the most sublime and awful ideas.

The procession began a quarter before eight, by the House of Commons, in coaches (167 members attending), followed by the speaker, in his robes, seated in his state-coach, with his mace-bearer and chaplain, from Palace-yard; and, passing through the entrance at the Horse-guards, into St. James's-park, went out at the Stable-yard, and ranged along Pall-mall and Charing-cross, followed by three knights-marshalmen, the clerk of the crown, masters in chancery, and the twelve judges, in the capacity of assistants to the House of Peers. After them, the peers in coaches, in the order of precedency, as they were marshalled by the black rod; beginning with Lord Malmesbury, as youngest baron, and ending with the Duke of Norfolk, the premier duke. The lord high chancellor, in his robes of office, and in his state-coach, closed this part of the procession.

Soon after the members of both houses had passed, the male branches of the royal family appeared in different carriages, in due order of precedency. Their majesties set out from the queen's palace soon after ten, in the order previously arranged by his majesty himself. Between eleven and twelve the king's carriage arrived at Temple-bar, where the lord mayor was in waiting, attended by six delegates from the corporation; viz. Sheriffs Curtis and Sir Benjamin Hammett, as aldermen, and deputies Leekey and Birch, with Messrs. Wadd and Dixon, as commoners. The lord mayor and his associates came thither in coaches, soon after nine, and were politely accommodated, by the banking-house of Mr. Child, in the great room immediately over the Bar, till, on notice of the king's approach, they all mounted their beautiful white palfreys, which were richly caparisoned, the saddles and bridles new for the occasion, silver-stitched, silver roses, and silk reins; the furniture blue and gold, with tassels of gold fringe; the fronts of the bridles richly embroidered with the words, "God save the King!" White fur caps to the holsters, richly wrought with gold; and each horse decorated with three dozen of favours, blue and white. The lord mayor was in a rich gown of crimson velvet; the two aldermen in their scarlet gowns, and the four commoners in their mazarine gowns, dressed uniformly in dark blue coats, white waistcoats and breeches, with purple roses in their shoes, and at their knees. Each of them had a walking page, carrying a hat, adorned with a beautiful cockade of purple and gold, inscribed, "Long live the King!" After they had taken horse, the lord mayor dismounting in form, surrendered the city sword to his majesty; who having graciously returned it, the lord mayor, on horseback, carried it bare-headed before the king to St. Paul's. The sheriffs and four commoners rode also bare-headed.

Nothing could exceed the magnificence of the procession from Temple-bar.

Immediately after the lord chancellor's carriage, the movement was as follows:

High-bailiff of Westminster.
Master of the Horse.
Duke of Cumberland.
Duke of Gloucester.
Duke of York.
Prince of Wales.
Attendants.
Six pioneers.
Colonel Sir Watkin Lewes, on horseback.
The Artillery Company.
Music.
Two pair of colours.

Fifteen of the Toxophilites, or ancient Society of Archers, dressed in a green uniform, with their bows in their hands, and elegant belts to their quivers; on which were embroidered, "Long live the King!"

City Arms.
City marshal, four common-councilmen, and the sheriffs, on horseback.
Lord mayor on horseback.
His mace-bearer on foot; and six servants, in rich liveries of purple and silver.
The city counsel.
Their MAJESTIES, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, attended by six pages, and six footmen; in a private carriage, pannels and front of glass, instead of leather.
The Princesses in two carriages.
Attendants in two coaches.

The different guards of honour in the procession were formed from the Oxford Blues; and the whole was closed by a troop of the royal regiment of Horse Guards.

All the charity-children entered the church at the north and south doors, by seven o'clock in the morning, and remained till the church was cleared. They had a place appropriated for their appearance, much in the same manner as at their anniversary meeting. This was at the particular desire of her majesty.

The clergy, with the minor canons, and their friends, entered the church, at the Dean's-gate, at eight o'clock.

The aldermen, with their ladies, and the principal city officers, between eight and nine, proceeded from the Mansion-house, along Cheapside, to the south entrance of St. Paul's church.

The corporation were represented in the procession from Temple-bar, as we have already stated, by a deputation. The other members of the body corporate assembled, at eight o'clock, in Guildhall, whence, in about half an hour, they began to parade on foot, in their mazarine gowns, through Cheapside, Newgate-street, the Old-bailey, and Ludgate-street. They were in two divisions, each attended with a suitable standard, and an excellent band of music. The first division was led by Deputies Hillier, Nichols, Wrench, and Mr. Pope; the other by Deputies White, Merry, Mr. Box, and Mr. Slade; all with wands, painted blue and gold, and elegant cockades, of purple and gold. Entering the church, at the north-west gate, they remained in the morning-prayer chapel, until the king's arrival was announced; when they ushered his majesty into the choir, and immediately took their seats.

The peers and members of the House of Commons soon after entered the west door of the church.

The female nobility, gentry, and others, came down Holborn, proceeded along Snow-hill and Newgate-street, down Warwick-lane, along Paternoster-row, and were set down at Cannon-alley, opposite to the north door of the church, where an awning was erected; their carriages then proceeded to the end of Paternoster-row, turned round to the left, into Newgate-street, down St. Martin's-le-Grand, into Aldersgate-street, where they waited.

Their majesties were met at the west door of St. Paul's, by the Bishop of London, the Dean of St. Paul's (Bishop of Lincoln); the canons residentary; Garter king at arms, and the rest of the heralds; the band of gentlemen pensioners and the yeomen of the guard. The sword of state was carried before his Majesty by the Marquis of Stafford into the choir, where the king and queen placed themselves under a canopy of state, at the west end of it, opposite to the altar.

The peers had their seats in the area, as a house of lords; and the commons were in the stalls. The upper galleries were allotted to the ladies of the bedchamber, the maids of honour, and such ladies of distinction as attended on the occasion. The foreign ministers were placed in the two lower galleries next to the throne; and the lord-mayor and aldermen, with their ladies, in the lower galleries, near the altar.

Immediately on their majesties being eated, divine service commenced. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of London; after which, an anthem, selected for the occasion, by the king, was sung by the gentlemen of the choir. The whole was finished about three o'clock, when their majesties returned with the same state to Buckingham House.

The streets through which the procession passed, were filled with rejoicing spectators. Before most of the houses were placed temporary galleries, crowded with beauty and fashion. Every precaution which prudence could suggest was taken to guard against the accidents which might have been expected from such a numerous assemblage of people; but they were unnecessary, good humour had so completely taken possession of every individual, that the military, who were stationed to keep the multitude in order, had nothing to do but to see the procession, with their fellow-citizens in the rear.

On the following evening, a general illumination took place throughout London and Westminster, which, for splendour and magnificence, surpassed all former exhibitions. All the public offices, the houses of the nobility and gentry, as well as many of those of private individuals, were decorated with transparencies, or elegant designs in coloured lamps; while even in the humble garret of the indigent, the gleam of loyalty and affection twinkled as cheerfully, if not as brightly, as in the splendid mansion of the opulent.

The repeal of the shop-tax, which was obtained in the course of this session of parliament, was celebrated on the 16th of June, by a dinner at the London Tavern, to which the ten representatives of London, Westminster, Middlesex, and Southwark, were invited, in testimony of the respect and gratitude of the shopkeepers for their exertions to relieve them from this burthen.

A dreadful fire consumed the Opera House, on the night of the 17th of June. The performers were rehearsing a ballet on the stage, when they were suddenly alarmed by flakes of fire falling on their heads. In a few minutes after, the whole building was in a blaze, which, from the vast quantity of combustible materials on the premises, and the calmness of the evening, rose in a spiral column to an extraordinary height. The light was so powerful that, for a few minutes, the whole western front of St. Paul's cathedral was as minutely visible as at noon day.

On Midsummer day, Serjeant Adair resigned the office of recorder. John William Rose, Esq. was elected his successor on the 30th, and his salary fixed at six hundred pounds per annum.

CHAP. XLVII.

Attempted Repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts.—Resolutions of the Common-council on this Subject.—The Monster.—Election of Common-Serjeant.—Action for the Penalty for not serving the Office of Sheriff.—Storms of Wind.—Trial with the Corporation of Lynn.—Remarkable high Tide.—Committee to superintend the Erection of Monuments in St. Paul's.—Further Proceedings relative to pressing Liverymen.—Consideration of the Sixteenth Standing Order of the Court of Common-council.—Decision of the Court of King's-bench, on the Claim of the City to an exclusive Jurisdiction in Southwark.—The Pantheon burnt.—Attempt to set Fire to the House of Commons.—Proclamation against seditious Meetings.—Address.—Riot in Mount-street.—New System of Police.—Proceedings of the disaffected —Resolutions of the Corporation of London.—Debating Societies.—Defensive Measures at the Tower.—Declaration of the Merchants, Bankers, and others.—General Loyalty.

THE endeavours of the Protestant dissenters, to procure a repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, having failed in the last session, by a very small majority, they were this year renewed with increased ardour; and, in the hope of strengthening their interest, the claims of the Roman Catholic dissenters were also included in their application to parliament. This junction of opposing interests, added to the violent political conduct of their leaders, induced moderate men to withhold that support, which the great body of the dissenters were, perhaps, entitled to; and induced the friends of the established church to exert a greater degree of vigour, in opposing their pretensions. Among other measures, calculated to give weight to this opposition, a common-council met, on the 25th of February, 1790, for the especial purpose of taking into consideration the steps taken by the dissenters to obtain the repeal of these acts, and whether any, and what, proceedings were necessary to be taken by that court; when, after a calm and dispassionate investigation of the subject, the following resolutions were carried by a very great majority.

I. "That it is the indispensable duty of this court, to support the rights and privileges of the church of England, as by law established; they being essentially connected with, and forming a part of, our happy consitution.

II. "That a full, perfect, and free toleration, in the exercise of religious duties, must be the wish and glory of every liberal mind; but, to remove the two bulwarks to our sacred constitution, in church and state, by a repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, would tend to produce that civil anarchy, which at first pointed out to the legislature the necessity of making such wise and salutary restrictive laws.

III. "That this court do consider themselves called upon to strengthen the hands of those friends to the established church, in the House of Commons, who have, twice, successfully opposed the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, by expressing their public thanks for such conduct; and to solicit the members of this court, who have seats in parliament, strenuously to resist every attempt that shall be made to obtain that repeal."

On the discussion of the question in the House of Commons, the motion, which, last year, was lost by only 20, was now negatived by 189.

Soon after this period, the streets of the metropolis were infested by a villain of a non-descript species in this country, and, for that reason, known by the appellation of the *Monster.* It was his practice to follow some well-dressed lady, whom he found unaccompanied by a man; and, sometimes, after using gross language, sometimes without saying a word, to give her a cut with a sharp instrument, concealed in his hand, either through her stays, or through her petticoats, behind. Several ladies had been thus attacked and wounded by this fellow, who had always the address to escape undetected; when, on the 13th of June, a Miss Porter, who had been assaulted by him in the manner described, was walking in the Park, in company with a gentleman, and met him. She immediately exclaimed, "The *wretch* has just passed us!" and pointed him out to the gentleman, who followed and apprehended him. On the 8th of July, he was brought to his trial at the Old-bailey, and found guilty upon the clearest evidence; but the judge reserved the sentence upon a point of law. The decision of the judges on this point being that the indictment was defective in form, he escaped the capital part of the charge; but was afterwards tried for this, and two other assaults, and, being convicted of the whole of them, was sentenced to six years imprisonment.

The death of Mr. Nugent, who had held the office of common-serjeant from the year 1758, occasioned a vacancy for that office; the election for which came on the 22d of July, when Mr. Sylvester was chosen, *during pleasure*. But this limitation being thought inconsistent with the nature of his office, part of which is to act as judge in the first criminal court in the kingdom, it was rescinded by the next court.

A cause was tried, in the sheriff's court, at Guildhall, on the 21st of October, in which John Wilkes, Esq. as chamberlain of the city of London, was plaintiff, and John Pardoe, Esq. defendant. The action was brought to recover the penalty of six hundred pounds, which is ordained by a bye-law of the court of common-council, to be paid for declining to serve the office of sheriff, to which Mr. Pardoe had been elected, in the year 1783, but refused to serve, on the ground of his being incapacitated. As it appeared that Mr. Pardoe, when he was chosen sheriff, was sixty-nine years of age, in an infirm state of health, and totally unfit to serve the office, the jury, which was special, gave a verdict in his favour.

The month of December was remarkable for two violent storms of wind; the first was on the morning of the 15th, by which considerable damage was done; and the second, which was much more destructive, began between four and five o'clock in the morning of the 23d, and was attended with successive flashes of lightning, and continued rolls of loud thunder. Part of the copper roofing of the new stone buildings, in Lincoln's-inn, was blown over the six clerks' office, into Chancery-lane, and some pieces of it over the roofs of the houses in the opposite side of the lane, so that it must have been carried upwards of a hundred feet through the air. Many houses were much damaged by stacks of chimnies falling through the roofs, and some lives were lost; and, in the country, the effects of the storm were equally violent: its severity was also felt in France.

The case of the city of London against the corporation of Lynn, came on to be argued in the court of King's-bench, on the 28th of January, 1791. It was a writ of error, from the court of Common-pleas, where a trial at bar was had on a writ *de essendo quietum de Theolonio* (of being quit from toll), brought by the city of London, to assert the right of their citizens to be exempted from a toll on corn, demanded by the corporation of Lynn. The cause was tried in May, 1789, by a special jury of the county of Norfolk, who found a verdict in favour of the citizens of London; and the errors were now assigned on the

informality

informality of the declaration, which did not state, that the city of London had received an injury, on which an action could be maintained, the corporation of Lynn having demanded, but not received, or distrained for, the toll in question. On this defect in the declaration, the judgment was reversed; but the *rights* of the citizens of London were not at all affected by this decision.

In the afternoon of the 2d of February, there was the highest flood in the Thames, that ever was known. Above Westminster-bridge, it overflowed the banks on both sides. It was near two feet deep in Palace-yard, and ran into Westminster-hall, so as to prevent people from passing, for two hours. Boats came through the passage, from Old Palace-yard to the Thames, and rowed up to Westminster-hall gate. The inhabitants of Milbank-street were conveyed to and from their houses in boats. The two Scotland-yards, and Privy-gardens, were entirely under water, and impassable in many places, for some hours.

The damage done in the warehouses on the wharfs was immense; they were overflowed, almost without exception. The water rose above the Custom-house quay, Tower-wharf, Bank-side, Queenhithe, Wapping High-street, Thames-street, Tooley-street, &c. and filled all the adjoining cellars; and most of the gardens and fields, between Blackfriar's-road and Westminster-bridge, were overflowed.

A general meeting of the royal academicians was held, at Somerset-house, on the 6th of May, for the election of a committee, for the purpose of determining on the propriety of the subjects and situations of the monuments to be erected in St. Paul's cathedral; when Messrs. West, Hamilton, Nollekins, Banks, Dance, and Sir William Chambers, were chosen; who, with the president of the Royal Academy, for the time being, are invested, by the lord chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and the dean and chapter, with the sole power of adjudging situations.

On the night of the 30th of May, there was an alarming insurrection in the King's-bench prison; an attempt being made by the greater part of the prisoners to escape. Much mischief was done to the inner part of the building, and the outer door would have been forced, had not a party of horse and foot arrived, very opportunely, to restore order, which they effected, happily without bloodshed, before eleven o'clock. The principals in this riot were removed to Newgate on the following day.

The right of the liverymen to be exempted from the operation of press-warrants, was again discussed, on the 6th of June, in the court of Common-pleas, in the case of two of the livery, who, having been impressed, were brought into court by writs of habeas corpus. The main question, however, was not determined; the two men being discharged by consent, on their own recognizances, to appear on the second day of the following term, if called upon.

A court of common-council was held at Guildhall on the 11th of October, to take into consideration a question adjourned from a former court, relative to the 16th standing order, viz. "That no member shall be permitted to be put in nomination as a candidate for any place of emolument, in the gift of this court, unless he shall, previously thereto, have engaged to take the first opportunity to resign his seat, in case he prove successful." After a warm debate the court divided, when the numbers appeared to be, for retaining the standing order 100, for suspending it 39.

The long depending cause between the magistrates of Surrey and the city of London, was argued before the court of King's-bench, on the 19th of November, on a special verdict. The facts were that a general meeting of the justices of Surrey was held on the 4th of September, for the purpose of granting licences to publicans; that the magistrates of London did not attend this meeting, but met on a subsequent day, and granted licences to certain publicans, who had been refused them by the justices of Surrey. For this conduct the magistrates of London were indicted, and the question for the decision of the court was, "whether the city of London had an exclusive jurisdiction to grant licences in the borough of Southwark, or possessed only a concurrent jurisdiction with the justices of Surrey?"

After the case had been argued on both sides, the court determined that the city of London had not an exclusive, but a concurrent jurisdiction, and therefore had acted illegally. This question was therefore determined against the city.

Between one and two o'clock in the morning of the 14th of January, 1792, a fire broke out in one of the new buildings which had been added to the Pantheon, to enlarge it sufficiently for the performance of operas. Before any engines reached the spot, the fire had got to such a height, that all attempts to save the building were in vain. The flames, owing to the scenery, oil, paint, and other combustible matter in the house, were tremendous, and so rapid in their progress, that not a single article could be saved. Fortunately, the height of the walls prevented the conflagration from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

An attempt was made to set the House of Commons on fire on the 9th of May, which was happily rendered abortive by the diligence of the watchman of the house. On perceiving a smell of something burning, he communicated his suspicions to Mr. Bellamy, who caused a search to be made, and found the ceiling of a water-closet, immediately under the house, had been broken, and a pair of worsted breeches, stuffed with combustible matter, burning between the joists. But for this providential discovery, it is probable that both houses of parliament, with the whole of Westminster-hall and the Court of Requests would, from the quantity and dryness of the timber contained in them, have fallen a sacrifice to this destructive element.

On the 21st, a royal proclamation was issued against seditious meetings and publications; in consequence of which the common-council of London, with an alacrity of zealous affection, which reflects honour on the first corporation in the universe, met on the 25th, and agreed, unanimously, to present an address to his majesty, "expressing their most grateful thanks for the additional proof he has given of his most gracious care and attention to the safety and happiness of his loyal subjects, in directing the late proclamation to be issued against seditious publications and criminal correspondencies."

This address was presented on the 1st of June, by the Lord-mayor, Aldermen, and Common-council; and was received with great satisfaction.

A very dangerous riot took place on the 5th of this month, in Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, occasioned by the apprehension of a number of servants who had assembled at a public house in the neighbourhood to make merry on the king's birth night, by a dance. On the following morning, a mob assembled in front of the watch-house, and demanded their release, which, not being complied with, they broke the windows. In the mean time some magistrates met at the watch-house, and examined the servants, all of whom were discharged, except six, including the publican and fiddler. The mob continuing to increase, the military were sent for, and the riot act being read, the crowd dispersed.

Tranquillity appearing to be restored, the soldiers were ordered away in the afternoon. In the evening the mob assembled again and attacked the watch-house, which they broke into and began to demolish, throwing the benches and furniture into the street. A party of guards reached the spot in time to prevent the total destruction of it, but had much difficulty to disperse the rabble, who proceeded immediately to the attack of a house in Audley-street, belonging to one of the constables, where it was also necessary to require the assistance of the military, to prevent mischief. Happily the tumult ended here without bloodshed; for those who assembled on the following day appeared to have no motive but curiosity, to see the devastation of the former night.

It had been long acknowledged, that some reformation in the police of Westminster was wanted, though the mode of effecting it, so as to unite general security with general liberty, had not been hit upon. With a view to accomplish this most difficult of the labours of legislation, a bill was introduced into parliament, early in the month of March, in pursuance of which, regular offices were to be established for the administration of that branch of justice, which falls within the jurisdiction of a justice of peace. Three justices to be appointed to each office, with fixed salaries, and the fees taken in all the offices to be consolidated in one fund, for the payment of them; and, to annihilate that reproach to the magistracy, known by the name of Trading Justices, no person in the commission of the peace was to receive any fees, except at the established offices.

Some opposition was made to this bill in its progress; but as it was only proposed for an experiment, being limited in its duration, and parliament would be enabled to judge of its expediency at the expiration of the term, and continue it or not as the result should warrant, it was passed.

The act was carried into execution, on the 21st of August, being extended to the other suburbs of the metropolis; and the following offices were appointed: viz. Queen-square, Westminster; Great Marlborough-street; Hatton-garden; Worship-street, Shoreditch; Lambeth-street, Whitechapel; High-street, Shadwell; and Union-street, Southwark: all of which have been since continued.

At this period the machinations of those who sought the overthrow of the British constitution became daily more apparent: numerous cheap publications were industriously disseminated, in which every degree of subordination was represented as inconsistent with the natural rights and equality of man, and the societies formed for giving more extension to these doctrines were rapidly uniting into one body, under the name of the Corresponding Society.

These proceedings aroused the loyalty of the citizens of London, who approved themselves the firm and decided friends of our happy constitution. At a court of common-council, held on the 29th of November, the lord mayor, in a speech replete with manly firmness, represented the necessity of supporting the king and constitution, and the full force of the recommendation was felt by every member of the court; as the following resolutions, which were unanimously voted, will testify.

I. That it is the duty of all corporations to preserve their fidelity to their sovereign, to be watchful for the safety of the sacred constitution of the country, and to maintain, to the utmost of their power, the peace, the property, and the personal security of every freeman, living under its protection; as it is equally the duty of every freeman to bear true allegiance to the king, and be obedient to the existing laws of the land.

II. That this corporation, regarding the blessings which the subjects of the British empire enjoy, under the present mild and happy government, as inestimable, will strengthen its exertions by every possible means, to suppress all unlawful and seditious assemblies within this city, and to bring to justice every disturber of the public tranquillity.

III. That this corporation, in the most solemn manner, doth hereby call upon every good citizen to co-operate with them to the same salutary end; to discourage every attempt which may be mode to excite the fears of the metropolis, by weak and designing men; and each, in his own person, to be ready, at all times, to accompany and assist the magistrates of the city, in the suppression of every tumult.

IV. That this court doth remind their constituents, the freemen of London, of the oath by which they are bound, to this purpose; viz. the first, second, and last clauses of a freeman's oath. "Ye shall swear that ye shall be good and true to our sovereign lord King George. Obeysant and obedient ye shall be to the mayor and ministers of the city. Ye shall also keep the king's peace in your own person. Ye shall know no gatherings, conventicles, nor conspiracies, made againt the king's peace, but ye shall warn the mayor thereof, or let it to your power."

V. That it be recommended to the aldermen and common-council, in their respective wards, to consider of the best means of preserving tranquillity, and of securing obedience to the laws.

VI. That these resolutions be printed in all the public papers of the united kingdoms, signed by the town-clerk.

VII. That the thanks of this court be given to the Right Hon. Sir James Sanderson, lord mayor of this city, for the wise and timely caution taken by him to prevent any breach of the peace, by the assembling of persons, under the pretence of publicly debating on a political subject; and that this court will, to the utmost of their power, give every assistance to his lordship, to carry into effect his majesty's most gracious proclamation.

The last resolution alluded to a transaction which had occurred a short time before. Among other modes resorted to by the inciters of discontent, was, that of propagating their insidious doctrines through the medium of debating societies, political lectures, &c. where, though the nominal subject related to some event in the ancient history of Greece or Rome, or was drawn from those which had recently happened in France, such allusions were made, as were evidently designed to bring the government of this country into disrepute. Such a meeting was publicly announced, to be held at the King's-arms tavern, in Cornhill, on the evening of the 27th; but, when the orators and their auditory assembled, they found the place in the occupation of the peace-officers, who denied them admission. This occasioned some slight tumult, and it was found necessary for the lord mayor to attend, with the city marshals, for the purpose of dispersing the crowd.

The apprehensions of some sudden insurrection, was, at this time, so strong, that government thought it expedient to make great preparations for the defence of the Tower, by opening entrenchments, raising parapets, and mounting cannon on the walls. All the breaches were filled up; and, on the west side of the Tower, some hundreds of old rum-puncheons, filled with earth, were placed as a barricade.

ricade. At the same time the Bank was double guarded; the villages, in the environs of the capital, were filled with soldiery, sufficient to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the metropolis, in case of a sudden alarm; and the court of lieutenancy of the city ordered a company of the London militia to be constantly on duty at the Artillery-house, night and day, to be ready at a moment's notice, in case of a disturbance.

In this crisis, the merchants, bankers, traders, and other inhabitants of London, thought it necessary to come forward, with a public declaration of their firm attachment to the constitution, and of their resolution to support the same. A meeting, for this purpose, was accordingly held, on the 5th of December, at Merchant Taylors'-hall, which was attended by upwards of three thousand persons; when, the declaration being twice read, and unanimously agreed to, was left at the hall, for receiving the signatures of all the above descriptions, who should approve of it. In a few days, this well-timed and judicious declaration was signed by upwards of eight thousand persons of the first consequence in the metropolis.

Enough has been said to show the general disposition of the people of London, in support of a government by king, lords, and commons, at this period of apprehension and dismay; it will, therefore, be unnecessary to particularize the immense number of similar declarations made by bodies of every description. In fact, it would require the enumeration of nearly every ward, parish, company, and society, in the metropolis.

CHAP. XLVIII.

Preparations for War.—Bounty to Seamen.—Address.—Tumult in Oxford-street.—Subscription for the Troops.—Fire at Hawley's Wharf.—Calamitous Accident at the Haymarket Theatre.—Propositions for the Defence of the City.—The Colours taken at Martinico, deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral.—Illuminations for Lord Howe's Victory.—Address of Congratulation.—Subscription for the wounded Seamen, and for the Widows and Children of the killed.—Dreadful Conflagration at Ratcliffe.—Violent Storm.—Recruiting-houses destroyed.—Seditious Practices.—State Trials.—A Vessel driven through London-bridge.—Petition to the House of Commons for Peace.—Address to the King.—Act for improving the Entrances to the City.—High Price of Provisions.—Riots.—Covent-garden Church burnt.—Outrage offered to the King.—Address of Congratulation.—Trial of one of the Ruffians.—Address of the City of London, on the Prospect of Peace.—Loyalty Loan.—Difference of Opinion, between the Livery and Common-council, on the Subsidy to the Emperor of Germany.

THE political intercourse between Great Britain and France, which had been suspended from the time of Louis's imprisonment by his subjects, in August of the preceding year, was so nearly broken off at the commencement of 1793, that both sides made preparations for war. The city of London, true to the professions they had made of supporting the king and government, took an early opportunity of proving their sincerity by unanimously voting, in a court of common-council, held on the 10th of January, a bounty of forty shillings to every able seaman, and twenty shillings to every landsman who should enter at Guildhall for the service of his majesty's navy, "as an humble testimony of their zeal and affection

tion for his majesty's most sacred person and government, and of their unshaken attachment to the glorious constitution of these kingdoms." And, on the 12th of February, a court of common-council was held, called expressly for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of addressing his majesty on the state of affairs, which was very numerously attended: when a motion was made and seconded, "that an humble and dutiful address be presented to his majesty, thanking him for the paternal care taken by his majesty for the preservation of the public tranquillity, expressive of abhorrence of the late atrocious acts at Paris, and assuring his majesty of the readiness and determination of his faithful citizens to support the honour of his crown, and the welfare of his kingdoms, against the ambitious designs of France, in their declaration of war against this country. This motion being unanimously agreed to, a committee was appointed to draw up the address, which was presented by the whole court on the 16th, and most graciously received.

Early in the morning of the 23d of June, a dreadful affray took place in the neighbourhood of Oxford-street. A large party of labouring people had been collected at a house in Oxford-buildings, on occasion of a child's death: a dispute arose among them, which terminated in a general battle; the victors in which, not satisfied with their triumph over their opponents, began to commit outrages in the neighbourhood. The watchmen were beaten, and the captain of the patrole so severely wounded, that he died shortly after. A party of the guards arrived about three o'clock in the morning, and were immediately assailed with brick-bats; they, however, succeeded in securing fifty-four of the rioters, after which tranquillity was restored; but it was found necessary to keep the soldiers on guard at the watch-houses in the neighbourhood all the following day and night.

The loyalty, patriotism, and humanity of the citizens, were strikingly exemplified by a vote of common-council, passed on the 21st of November, that the sum of five hundred pounds be subscribed by this court, towards supplying the British troops, now serving on the continent, with comfortable cloathing and other necessaries, during the winter; and that ward committees be forthwith appointed to receive the further subscriptions of other corporate bodies, or of individuals, and to carry the same into the most immediate effect.

The whole of the warehouses at Hawley's wharf, near the Hermitage, with several adjoining houses, three vessels, and some small craft in the dock, and a great quantity of sugars, rum, and hemp, were entirely destroyed by fire on the 2d of December. During this conflagration a new and astonishing phenomenon struck every beholder with awe. The united mass of near one thousand four hundred casks of sugar, melted by the irresistible heat, burst into a flame, and flowed through the streets in one bright stream of liquid fire.

A most melancholy accident happened at the entrance of the pit door of the little theatre in the Haymarket, on the 3d of February, 1794, occasioned by the extreme pressure of a crowd assembled to gain admittance to the house. On opening the door, some of those most forward were thrown down by the press behind, and others fell over them, while the same impulse continued to force those who followed forward, by which means the unfortunate sufferers were literally trampled to death. Fifteen were taken up lifeless, and upwards of twenty others suffered material injury by bruises and broken limbs.

An especial court of common-council was held, on the 17th of April, to consider "if any, and what, steps are necessary for the defence of this city at the present moment, and in case of any emergency."

No opposition was made to the first motion, "That it is the indispensable duty of this corporation, at all times, and more especially at this important crisis, to manifest, in the strongest manner, their zeal for the constitution, by the most vigorous exertions in defence of their king and country." But the second proposition, which was for raising a regiment of infantry, and a troop of cavalry, occasioned a difference of opinion; it being contended, that the militia of the city was its constitutional defence; and an amendment to that effect was negatived by a majority of only five. A conversation, rather than a debate, then took place, on the original question, which concluded by a general consent to adjourn it, and to appoint a committee of all the aldermen, and a commoner out of each ward, to take the business into consideration, and to suggest a plan that might meet with the unanimous wishes of the corporation.

The report of this committee was received on the 24th. It recommended the raising a regiment of infantry, but, at the same time, declared it to be their unanimous opinion, that the militia of the city are its proper military defence, and that the court of lieutenancy be requested to put them upon a plan essential for its internal safety. On the question for agreeing with the report, it was moved to add the words, "so far as relates to the London militia; and to re-commit the consideration of such additional aid, as may seem meet to be adopted for the defence of the city, until the determination of the commissioners of lieutenancy shall have been ascertained." This amendment was carried in the affirmative.

The king having been pleased to order the colours taken at Martinico to be deposited in St. Paul's cathedral, they were carried there in grand military procession by twenty-nine serjeants, escorted by detachments from the horse and foot guards, on the 17th of May.

The news of the splendid victory obtained by Lord Howe on the 1st of June, reached London on the evening of the 13th; and was first publicly announced to the audiences at the Opera House and theatres. The joyful intelligence was received with rapturous bursts of applause, and "Rule Britannia" and "God save the King" were sung, and repeatedly encored. On the three following nights the cities of London and Westminster were illuminated with a splendour, only exceeded on occasion of the king's recovery.

A court of common-council was immediately summoned, and met on the 17th, when an address of congratulation to his majesty was agreed to: after which the court came to resolutions, "That the thanks of the court be given to Earl Howe, and the officers and sailors in the fleet under his command, for the important victory over the French fleet; and that the freedom of the city be presented to him in a gold box, of one hundred guineas value; and also, that the sum of five hundred pounds be paid into the hands of Mr. Taylor, master of Lloyd's Coffee-house, as the subscription of the city for the relief of the wounded petty officers, soldiers, and seamen, and the widows and children of those who fell in the late action with the French fleet."

On the 23d of July, about three o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out at Ratcliffe, which consumed more houses than any one conflagration since the great fire of London. It was occasioned by the boiling-over of a pitch-kettle at a barge builder's, from whose warehouses it communicated to a barge laden with salt-petre, and from that to the salt-petre warehouses belonging to the East India Company. The scene now became dreadful; the wind blowing strong from the south directed the flames towards Ratcliffe High-street, which being narrow, took fire on both sides, which prevented the engines from being of any service. From hence it extended towards Stepney, until, having reached an open space of ground, it stopped for want of materials to consume. About ten o'clock at night its devastations on the side next Limehouse were checked by the great exertions of the firemen and inhabitants. It was a very remarkable circumstance that an extensive building, the dwelling-house of a Mr. Bere, standing almost in the center of the conflagration, remained uninjured, not even a single pane of glass being cracked.

On making a survey of the extent of the damage, it appeared that out of one thousand two hundred houses, of which the hamlet consisted, not more than five hundred and seventy were preserved from the destructive element. About four hundred families were deprived of their all, and thrown on the public benevolence. In this distress, government sent one hundred and fifty tents from the Tower, which were pitched in an enclosed piece of ground, adjoining to Stepney church-yard, for the reception of the sufferers, and provisions were distributed among them from the vestry. A subscription was also immediately opened at Lloyd's Coffee-house for their relief; and some of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood attended at the avenues leading to the desolated scene, for the purpose of soliciting the benevolence of those whom curiosity might lead to witness the distresses of their fellow-creatures; and it may be recorded among the instances of the universal charity peculiar to this nation, that the collection from the visitants, on the Sunday following, amounted to upwards of eight hundred pounds; four hundred and twenty-six pounds of which was in copper, and thirty-eight pounds fourteen shillings in farthings. The total sum collected was upwards of sixteen thousand pounds.

The oldest inhabitant of London never witnessed so dreadful a storm as that which took place on the 7th of August, about four o'clock in the afternoon. The rain fell in torrents, and was accompanied by long and tremendous peals of thunder, and vivid flashes of lightning. One of these was seen to come down, and strike the street on the east side of Temple-bar, producing an effect similar to an explosion of gunpowder; every particle of straw, mud, and even the water, being completely swept from the pavement, while the houses on both sides of the street were violently shaken, and the doors of some of them forced open: fortunately, the rain had driven every person from the street. Among other damage done by the violence of this storm, the centre beam of the roof of Lloyd's coffee-house was split, and great part of the ceiling fell into the coffee-room, followed by a torrent of rain, which in a few minutes covered the whole floor. Many balls of fire fell in the streets, particularly at the west end of the town; by which several people were thrown down, but only one person was killed.

On the 15th, a young man, who had been inveigled into a recruiting office, in Johnson's-court, Charing-cross, where, in consequence of his endeavouring to escape, he had been detained by force, threw himself from the window of a garret in which he was confined, and was killed upon the spot. This circumstance very naturally attracted the attention of passengers, and a crowd was speedily collected,

lected, who, fired by indignation, demolished the house, and were not dispersed, by a party of guards, without great difficulty. On the following day (Saturday), and Monday, the populace seemed determined not to spare any of the recruiting houses in the neighbourhood, but were kept under some restraint by large bodies of the horse and foot guards; though even these could not prevent them from breaking the windows of them. On Tuesday, a house in Whitcomb-street was attacked, and only saved by the timely intervention of the military. On Wednesday, the recruiting houses in the city were attacked, and more or less damage done to all of them, notwithstanding the exertions of the lord mayor, assisted by the military, for, as soon as the mob found themselves interrupted in one place, they went to another. At length, by the firm, yet temperate, behaviour of the magistrates and military, on Thursday, these disturbances were quelled without bloodshed; but it was judged necessary to keep the soldiers upon duty during the following day.

Some circumstances, which occurred in the course of this year, have been purposely omitted in the order of chronology, that they might be brought into one point of view, since they all relate to the state trials, which took place in October and November.

The existence of the Corresponding Society has been already mentioned; by the unwearied exertions of its leaders, it had now assumed a formidable aspect, being composed of an immense number of the middling and lower orders of the community, who, not only in their meetings, but also in common conversation, were equally free in their censures of the war, and in their wishes for the success of the French. The avowed object of their association was, a reform in parliament; but they were charged with views of another kind; with a design of destroying the constitution, and introducing a republican form of government: and, that this accusation, so far as it regarded some of the leading members, was well founded, cannot be denied, though the indiscriminate application of it to all was certainly wrong.

To whatever extent the anti-monarchical doctrine might have prevailed among them, the systematic organization of all their proceedings, and the regular correspondence kept up between every part of the united kingdoms, could not fail to excite the jealousy of government, even had their language been more guarded; and hence a watchful eye was kept upon all their actions. They did not, however, seem to entertain any dread of ministerial power; they continued to hold their meetings, and declare their sentiments, with the most unlimited freedom, though these were, sometimes, of such a nature as laid them open to the charge of sedition. But the circumstance, which rendered them principally obnoxious, was the intimate connection they held with the convention that assembled in Scotland, some of the principal leaders of which had been tried, and found guilty of high-treason.

It was evident, from the papers found in the possession of some of the Scotch delegates, that an intention existed of calling a similar meeting in England; and subsequent discoveries in London confirmed the fact. In this state of things, therefore, it was determined by government, to apprehend the leading members of the Corresponding Society; and, accordingly, on the 12th of May, Thomas Hardy, their secretary, was taken into custody, and, on the same day, a message from the king was delivered to the House of Commons, informing them that seditious practices had been carried on by societies in

London, in correspondence with other societies, to the intent of assembling a convention, to represent the people of England, in defiance and opposition to parliament, and on principles subversive of the laws and constitution of the kingdom.

The parliamentary proceedings, on this communication, are not within the scope of this history; the reader, who wishes for information on that head, is, therefore, referred to the newspapers and periodical publications of the time.

The apprehension of Hardy was followed by that of Daniel Adams, secretary to the Society for Constitutional Information, the celebrated John Horne Tooke, the Rev. Mr. Joyce, domestic tutor to Lord Mahon, John Thelwall, and several others; all of whom, after being examined before the privy-council, were committed to the Tower.

On the 25th of October, they were brought to trial, before a special commission, at the Old-bailey; a bill of indictment having been previously found by the grand jury. The first person tried, was Thomas Hardy. His trial lasted eight days; but the evidence not being sufficient to substantiate the commission of such an *overt* act, as is required to constitute the crime of high-treason, he was acquitted.

Mr. Tooke was next tried, and acquitted for the same reason; as was Mr. Thelwall, whose trial followed; after which the other prisoners were brought to the bar, *pro forma;* but no evidence was adduced against them.

Thus finished these important trials, which, whatever opinion may be formed of the views and designs of the objects of them, will remain a lasting memento of the valuable privilege of the trial by jury; nor will it be any impeachment of the uprightness of the jurors in these cases, to suppose, that, if the indictments had been preferred for offences of an inferior nature, their verdicts would have been different.

On the 19th of January, 1795, two vessels, cut from their moorings by the large bodies of ice drifting in the river, were driven with such force against London-bridge by the tide, that one of them, a large West Indiaman, carried away all her masts against the ballustrades of the bridge, knocked down two of the lamps, bending the irons in an astonishing manner, and, with a crash that shook the whole fabrick, passed through the centre arch with incredible velocity, and drifted up the river to Blackfriar's-bridge, which she also went through, and continued her course till she came above Somerset House, when she drove on shore and was secured. The crew, perceiving their danger, took to the boat a few minutes before she reached the bridge. The other vessel struck against the starlings of one of the smaller arches and did not go through.

About this period the desire of the citizens, to be restored to the blessings of peace, was very universal. though the means by which it was to be obtained seem to have produced a diversity of sentiment between the different classes of them. On the 26th of January, a petition was presented to the House of Commons from the lord mayor, aldermen, and liverymen of London, praying, that the House, disclaiming all right of interfering in the internal concerns of France, will be pleased to take such measures as they in their wisdom shall think proper, for the purpose of promoting a speedy peace between Great Britain and the power with whom we are at war.

This was followed, on the 28th, by an address to his majesty from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, in which they express their wishes that his majesty will employ every means which shall be most proper to defend this country against its foreign and domestic enemies, and to restore to us the blessings of peace, whenever it can be done consistently with the honour and dignity of the state; and with that permanent security which is, above all things, important to the maintenance of our trade, commerce, and prosperity.

In the course of this session of parliament, an act was passed for widening the passage into the city through the Strand, by the removal of Butcher-row; and also for making a new communication from the top of Snow-hill to Holborn-bridge.

The price of bread, and the probability of its farther advance was, at this time, a subject of serious concern. It had early engaged the attention of government and of corporate bodies; and a committee had been appointed by the common-council of London to consider the best means of reducing the high price of provisions.

On the 7th of July, the lord mayor reported to the court of aldermen the result of a conference with his majesty's privy council, on this subject; after which, he made a similar communication to the court of common-council, the purport of which was that it be recommended to the public to reduce the consumption of every article made of the finest sort of flour, as much as possible, and to encourage the use of such articles of food as may be a substitute for wheat. These suggestions being taken into consideration, as well as the distresses of the poor, resolutions were passed, requesting subscriptions in the different wards for relieving the industrious poor, which the court began by subscribing one thousand pounds to be divided among the wards according to their respective wants.

Some disgraceful tumults were incited on the 12th of July, by a fifer of the name of Lewis, who, being refused liquor by a publican at Charing-cross, and turned out of the house for misconduct, collected an immense mob by a fictitious story of his companion having been kidnapped, and then confined in the cellar, from which he had himself escaped with great difficulty. The indignant crowd, forgetting the respect due to the laws, and yielding to the impulse of the moment, broke open the door, and destroyed every article of furniture the house contained, before the military, who were sent for, could disperse them.

On the two following days, the mob again assembled, both at Charing-cross, and in St. George's-fields; where they attacked the recruiting houses, some of which they gutted, and made bonfires of the furniture; nor could their riotous proceedings be checked, until the horse-guards were obliged to gallop among them, by which numbers were trampled under the horses' feet, and severely wounded. Lewis, the instigator of this disturbance, was apprehended and committed to prison.

On the 17th of September, the parish church of St. Paul, Covent-garden, was destroyed by fire, said to have been occasioned by the negligence of the plumbers, who were repairing the lead-work of the cupola. The communion-plate was saved, but every other article belonging to the edifice, including the valuable and celebrated organ, was devoured by the flames.

The minds of the lower class of people had been industriously poisoned, by the most inflammatory harangues and resolutions, at different meetings of the Corresponding Society, one of which was held, on the 26th of October, in the fields, near Copenhagen-house, Islington, to vote an address to the nation, on its critical and calamitous state; a remonstrance to his majesty, for the neglect and contempt shown to a former address; and a string of resolutions, applicable to the alarming crisis, all of which were adopted by the acclamation of the multitude. The event which followed, showed the state of irritation these proceedings had created.

On the 29th, the king went in state to open the parliament, on which occasion a crowd assembled, ten times as numerous as that usually produced; for they amounted to at least two hundred thousand. From the time that his majesty left the palace, he was hissed and hooted at by a gang of ruffians, but no violence was offered until he arrived opposite the Ordnance Office, when a bullet from an air gun perforated the glass pannel of the coach, but most happily failed to accomplish the diabolical purpose it was evidently intended to effect.

In Palace yard, a stone was thrown which shattered one of the side windows; and on his majesty's return, followed by the same gang, another stone was thrown opposite to Spring-garden terrace, which struck the wood-work of the coach, without doing any injury to it.

After his majesty had alighted at St. James's, the mob attacked the state coach with stones and bludgeons, by which every particle of glass belonging to it was demolished, and considerable injury done to the carved-work and pannels.

In a short time, the king went in his private coach from St. James's to Buckingham-house, and, in the park, was attacked by sixteen or seventeen ruffians, who broke out from the mass of the crowd; but, fortunately, the horse-guards arrived to his rescue, just as one of them was attempting to force open the door.

This daring outrage excited the horror and detestation of all ranks of people, and was followed by loyal and affectionate addresses of congratulation from every part of the kingdom: that from the city of London was presented on the 6th of November; and most graciously received.

The trial of Kyd Wake, one of the gang who followed his majesty's coach on the first day of the session, hissing and otherwise insulting him, came on in the court of King's-bench, on the 20th of February, 1796, when the facts charged in the indictment being fully proved, the jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of guilty. The judgment of the court, which was pronounced on the first day of the next term, was, to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour in Gloucester gaol for five years, and to stand on the pillory, in one of the public streets of Gloucester, on a market day, within the first three months of his imprisonment, at the expiration of which, he was to find security for one thousand pounds, for his good behaviour for ten years.

At a court of common-council, held on the 28th of April, the sum of two hundred pounds was voted to that excellent institution, the Humane Society.

On the meeting of the new parliament, the king having informed them, that the steps he had pursued had opened the way to an immediate and direct negotiation for peace, the common-council of London thought themselves called upon to address his majesty, to thank him for this communication, and to assure him that, in the event of his being unable to obtain a just, honourable, and solid peace, it was the united determination of the citizens of London to support and assist him with increased vigour and activity. In his answer, his majesty thanked them for these fresh assurances of attachment, and promised an unremitting attention to the welfare and happiness of the city of London.

Among the measures resorted to by the minister, for raising the supplies, was that of having recourse to a voluntary loan of eighteen millions. This plan was communicated to the lord mayor, on the 1st of December, with a request that he would make it known to the corporation and the public companies; but so eager were the monied men to embark in it, that the common-council, which was summoned to meet on the 5th, for the purpose of giving their support to the measure, could only be admitted to subscribe one hundred thousand pounds by an especial favour; and many of the public companies were unable to get their subscriptions entered.

During the recess of parliament, administration had found it necessary to advance a sum of money to the Emperor of Germany, for the common purposes of the war; which, not having been voted previous to the dissolution, was, consequently, without the sanction of parliament.

On this subject, the sentiments of the livery and the common-council of London, were again at variance. The former resolved, in a common-hall, held on the 14th, to instruct their representatives to move or support a motion for censuring ministers, for having taken upon themselves to send money to the Emperor of Germany, without the consent of parliament; and the latter, in a court of common-council, held on the 20th, agreed to a motion, approving of the pecuniary aid to the Emperor of Germany, which had enabled him to withstand the desperate attempts of the French; given a decided and favourable turn to the war; and opened a fairer prospect of obtaining an honourable peace to Great Britain and her allies.

CHAP. XLIX.

Stoppage of the Cash-payments at the Bank.—Resolutions of the Merchants and Bankers thereon.—Refusal of his Majesty to receive a Petition from the Livery on the Throne.—-Violent Proceedings of that Body.—Counter-declaration of a great Number of Liverymen.—The Earl of Lauderdale becomes a Candidate for the Office of Sheriff.—-General Thanksgiving.—Royal Procession to St. Paul's.—-Meeting of Merchants, for the Purpose of a voluntary Contribution in Aid of the Exigencies of the State.—Subscription of the Corporation.—Armed Associations in the different Wards.—Rupture in the Bank of the New River.—A French Admiral's Sword presented to the City by Lord Nelson.—-Proceedings of the Court of Common-council.—Offer of Mrs. Damer to execute a Bust of Lord Nelson, for the City.—-Grand Review of the Volunteers.—-Subsequent Inspection of them.—Fire in the King's-bench Prison.—High Price of Provisions. —Petition to the House of Commons for Peace.—A Pistol fired at the King, in Drury-lane Theatre.—-Second Review of the Volunteers —Riot in the House of Correction in Cold-bath-fields.—-And at the Corn-market.—- Resolution of a Common-hall, on his Majesty's Refusal to receive their Petition on the Throne.—-Address from the Common-council.—Royal Proclamation, recommending Economy in the Consumption of Grain.

VARIOUS causes having produced an unprecedented demand for specie, an order of council was issued, on the 26th of February, 1797, stating it to be indispensably necessary, for the public service, that the directors of the Bank of England should forbear issuing any cash in payment, until the sense of parliament could be taken upon the subject, and the proper measures adopted thereon, for maintaining the means of circulation, and supporting public and commercial credit. And, on the following day, a notice was given from the Bank, that the directors meant to continue their usual discounts, paying the amount in Bank-notes, and that the dividend warrants would be paid in the same manner.

The consequences of this stoppage in the cash-payments of the Bank, would, very probably, have been productive of serious inconveniences in trade, had not the bankers and most opulent merchants of London, sanctioned it by their approbation of the measure. To give publicity to their approval, a meeting of persons of this description was held at the Mansion-house; at which a declaration of their readiness to receive Bank-notes, in payment of sums due to them, and to endeavour to make payments in the same manner, was signed, and afterwards published in the newspapers.

On investigating the causes of this extraordinary event, in parliament, the prosperous state of the Bank was made so apparent, that public confidence returned with the knowledge of its stability; and the small notes, which the directors were empowered to issue, are now received with as much facility as their larger ones used to be.

The right of the livery of London to have their petitions and addresses presented to the king *on the throne*, became again the subject of discussion in the course of this year. A common-hall was held, on the 23d of March, in which a petition to his majesty, praying him to dismiss his ministers, as the first step towards obtaining a speedy, honourable, and permanent peace, was voted; and the sheriffs, with the city representatives were requested to present it to his majesty on the throne. On the 1st of April, the lord mayor laid before the livery a letter he had received from the sheriffs, acquainting him that his majesty would receive the petition on the next, or any other levee-day; but, as it did not come from the city, in its corporate capacity, he would not receive it on the throne. On this, the livery directed the sheriffs, attended by the remembrancer, to demand a personal audience of his majesty, to know when he would be pleased to receive their address and petition on the throne. They accordingly obtained an audience, and delivered the message directed by the livery; to which they received an answer from his majesty, refusing to receive it upon the throne, for the reasons already given, and repeating his readiness to receive it at the levee, provided the number of persons presenting it did not exceed the usual number of ten.

This report being read at another common-hall, held on the 12th, two resolutions were passed, declaratory of the rights of the livery; and another was offered, which, not being specified in the summons, the lord mayor declared he could not put, consistently with his duty to the livery, who might thus be surprised into measures, for which they were not previously prepared. After much altercation, the lord mayor ordered the insignia of office to be taken up; and the hall was, of course, dissolved.

A fourth common-hall was held on this subject, on the 11th of May, when several strong resolutions were entered into, relative to the rights of the livery, and the misconduct of his majesty's ministers, for the dismissal of whom their representatives were directed to move an address in parliament: after which, a vote of censure was passed against the lord mayor, for dissolving the last common-hall, and convening this for purposes short of those specified in the requisition.

A counter-declaration was, however, signed, by two thousand and ninety-six liverymen, expressive of their dissent and disapprobation of the violent proceedings at these common-halls; and of their aversion and abhorrence of all proceedings, tending to excite discord, or to sanction measures of turbulence. And a meeting of the livery was held, at the London-tavern, on the 26th of May, in which it was resolved, that the above-mentioned declaration "is a noble vindication of the character of a great and respectable body of men, who have been among the foremost in defence of true constitutional freedom:" and the resolution concluded by approving the conduct of the lord mayor, the censure against whom was unmerited, and highly indecent.

The election for sheriffs, on Midsummer-day, was marked by the singular circumstance of a peer offering himself a candidate for that office. From what has been said above, it will be seen that party politics ran high in the city: this election was considered, by both sides, as a criterion to judge of their comparative strength. The popular party were strengthened by the addition of the Earl of Lauderdale, who had purchased his freedom a few days before, and had become a member of the needlemakers' company, in order to qualify him to become a candidate. Mr. S. F. Waddington joined his lordship, and their pretensions were supported by those who had led the resolutions of censure against administration, and against the lord mayor, at the late common-halls; but the show of hands gave them so little hopes of success, that no poll was demanded. After the usual business of the day was disposed of, a resolution was put, and carried, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, for the faithful and zealous discharge of his public duties, for his constant impartiality, and for his attention to the livery on every occasion."

The 19th of December was appointed to be held as a day of thanksgiving, for the three great naval victories atchieved by Lords Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan; on which occasion their majesties attended divine service at St. Paul's cathedral. The procession, on this day, began with two colours taken from the French, three from the Spaniards, and four from the Dutch, labelled, "June, 1794," "February, 1797," and "October, 1797." They were carried on artillery waggons; each set followed by a party of lieutenants of the navy, who had served in the several engagements in which they were won. After these came a large detachment of marines, with music playing; and then the following admirals, in carriages, Lord Duncan, Sir C. Thompson, Sir R. Onslow, Sir A. Gardner, Sir T. Pasley, Sir R. Curtis, Sir H. Nelson, Lord H. Seymour, Caldwell, Waldegrave, Hamilton, Goodall, Young, Lindsay, Gambier, Bazeley, and Captain Sir H. Trollope. The naval part of the procession was followed by the two houses of parliament, the royal family, and then their majesties, in a similar manner to the procession on the king's recovery.

The death of Alderman Wilkes, which happened on the 26th of December, occasioned a vacancy for the office of chamberlain. A common-hall, for the election of his successor, was held on the 2d of January, 1798, when the candidates were, Sir Watkin Lewes, and Alderman Clark. On the show of hands, there was a great majority in favour of Mr. Clark; but a poll was demanded in favour of Sir Watkin; which began at half past two, and closed, for the day, at four, when Sir Watkin Lewes declined giving the livery any further trouble; the numbers being 393 to 48. The unusually great number polled in this short space is an ample testimony of the high esteem in which the unobtrusive merits of the present chamberlain are held by his fellow-citizens; there being, perhaps, no instance of so many liverymen having voted in the same time, on any other occasion.

A meeting of the most respectable merchants and traders of London, was held at the Royal Exchange, on the 9th of February, for the purpose of entering into a voluntary subscription for the service of the country. The lord mayor, accompanied by a considerable number of the principal bankers, merchants, &c. appeared, on a temporary hustings, about one o'clock, and, in a short speech, stated the object of the meeting. He was followed by Mr. Bosanquet, who entered more fully into the propriety and necessity of the measure, and proposed, that books should be opened at the Exchange, for receiving subscriptions, which was unanimously agreed to. Four separate books were then opened on the hustings, and, at the close of the day, the exact sum subscribed was, forty-six thousand five hundred and thirty-four pounds fourteen shillings and six pence; and the number of subscribers was two hundred and eighteen.

On the 13th, a court of common-council was held, for the purpose of voting a sum of money, in aid of the voluntary contributions, when, after some conversation, the sum of ten thousand pounds was agreed to, with very few dissenting voices. After the court broke up, several of the aldermen and commons subscribed in their individual capacities.

In consequence of a conference the lord mayor had had with the Duke of York, and a letter he had received from the Secretary of State, in relation to forming armed associations in the several wards of the city, a court of common-council was held, on the 19th of April, to take the proposed measure into consideration, which met with general approbation; and, after a conversation of some length, on the means of carrying it into effect, it was agreed to request the lord mayor to convene his brethren, the aldermen, for the purpose of submitting the plan to them. When they met, they came to an unanimous resolution, to call meetings of the inhabitant householders in each ward; which was done on the 1st of May. The propositions were the same in each ward; viz. for the inhabitant householders, that were able men, to learn the use of arms; those not capable of bearing arms, to be appointed special constables; to be commanded by their own aldermen; to choose a committee, to form regulations, and recommend officers; and, in case of need, to be united into one body, under the direction of the lord mayor and court of aldermen, These propositions were unanimously adopted.

While these measures were pursued in the city, parochial and district meetings were general in every part of the metropolis; and a volunteer force was shortly established, which relieved government from much care, and enabled it to make a much more advantageous disposition of the regulars, in case of necessity.

On the 2d of September, in the afternoon, the north-east bank of the New River suddenly burst, about half a mile from Hornsey-house, and inundated the lands between that place and Tottenham freehold, for a circuit of three or four miles; the lower parts of them to a depth of four feet.

On the 4th of October, the Hon. Capt. Capel waited on the lord mayor, with the sword of the French admiral, M. Blanquet, which was surrendered in the naval action at the Nile, and intended by Sir Horatio Nelson as a present to the city of London, accompanied by the following letter.

"My Lord, *Vanguard, Mouth of the Nile, Aug. 8.*

"Having the honour of being a freeman of the city of London, I take the liberty of sending to your lordship the sword of the commanding French admiral (M. Blanquet), who survived after the battle of the 1st, off the Nile; and request that the city of London will honour me with the acceptance of it, as a remembrance that Britannia still rules the waves; which, that she may ever do, is the fervent prayer of your lordship's most obedient servant,

"H. NELSON."

This letter, and the sword, were laid before a court of common-council, on the 10th, who referred it to a committee, to consider the best manner of disposing of the sword, and report to the next court. It was then unanimously resolved to address his majesty on the glorious victory over the French, off the Nile, on the 1st of August, by his majesty's fleet, under the command of Sir Horatio, now Baron Nelson, of the Nile; which was presented on the 24th, and very graciously received.

The report from the committee was laid before the court, on the 16th, and unanimously agreed to. It was, that they had come to the following resolution, "That the sword, delivered up to our gallant hero, Lord Nelson, by the French admiral, M. Blanquet, be put up in the most conspicuous place in the common-council chamber, with the following inscription, engraved on a marble tablet:

"The sword of Mons. Blanquet,
the commanding French admiral,
in the glorious engagement of the Nile,
on the 1st of August, 1798,
presented to the court
by the Right Hon. Rear Admiral Lord Nelson."

The lord mayor was then requested to communicate to Lord Nelson the high sense which the court entertain of this invaluable present. After which, the thanks of the court, with a sword of two hundred guineas value, were voted to Lord Nelson; and also the thanks of the court to Captain Berry, the captains, officers, and seamen, for their important services; and the freedom of the city was voted to Captain Berry, to be presented in a box of one hundred guineas value.

At a court of common-council, held on the 23d of January, 1799, the lord mayor produced a letter from the Hon. Mrs. Damer, offering her services to execute, and present to the court, a bust of Lord Nelson, either in bronze or marble; which were accepted, and the thanks of the court unanimously voted for her liberal proposal.

The anniversary of his majesty's birth was marked, this year, by a spectacle, such as no king, of this or any other country, had ever been gratified with. The day commenced with a grand review of sixty-six corps of volunteers, who, from motives of the purest patriotism, had formed themselves into military associations, and learned the use of arms, for the most honourable purpose; that of maintaining the independence of their native country. So large a body of men, thus standing forward to surround his majesty's person, and to manifest their determination to defend his rights, as well as their own, was, certainly, the most superb spectacle, that a people, satisfied with their own constitution, and desiring no improvement, but what its own principles admit of, could display. Its best characteristic was, the unanimity of sentiment, by which the whole body was animated. It was not an ebullition of party spirit, or of ministerial address; but it was the united emotion of attachment to the king's person, and love for the British empire, which, through all the divisions and differences of opinion, is the real aim of every genuine Briton.

The numbers of this assemblage of citizen-soldiers, armed in defence of the best sovereign, and the happiest and most perfect constitution, on the earth, were variously represented at the time; but, from the returns made to the commander in chief, it appears, that the actual amount was eight thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine; viz. in the right line, extending from the Serpentine-river, to the north-east gate of Kensington-gardens, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four; in the centre line, extending along the north side of the park, two thousand five hundred and seventy-five; in the left line, extending from Cumberland-gate to Hyde-park-corner, three thousand six hundred and thirty-two. Total of infantry, seven thousand nine hundred and eighty one. Cavalry, formed in the lower-part of the park, with their right to Hyde-park-corner, and their left towards Kensington, three hundred and sixty-eight. Volunteer cavalry, employed in clearing the ground, six hundred and forty. Total of cavalry, one thousand and eight.

The day was very unfavourable; but this circumstance, though it might diminish the brilliancy, did not derange the military array, or repress the curiosity of the public; the crowd assembled on the occasion being estimated at not less than a hundred and fifty thousand, including all the beauty and fashion of the metropolis; and the whole of this immense body were gratified, without tumult or confusion, by the provident regulation of not admitting carriages into the park.

On the 21st, his majesty honoured the volunteer corps with a more minute inspection, in different parts of the metropolis, selected for the conveniency of being near their usual places of assembling. This inspection commenced at nine o'clock in the morning, and was not concluded until five in the afternoon.

His majesty was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York, Kent, Cumberland, and Gloucester, and an immense concourse of general and other officers.

A dreadful fire broke out in the King's-bench prison in the evening of the 13th of July, which raged with such fury, that between eighty and an hundred of the prisoners' rooms were destroyed before it was extinguished.

The increasing price of provisions made it again necessary to attend to the wants of the industrious poor. A meeting was therefore held at the London Tavern, on the 6th of December, to take into consideration the means of giving them assistance during this pressure, when it was agreed to open a subscription similar to that in 1795, from the application of which such advantages had been derived at a comparatively small expense.

While the liberality of the affluent was thus exercised, the wisdom of government was employed in seeking remedies for the evil, and the means of preventing its extension. With this view, and in order to prevent an useless expenditure of wheaten flour by the consumption of new bread, a bill was passed, in February, 1800, prohibiting any baker in London or Westminster, or within ten miles of the Royal Exchange, from selling bread until it had been baked twenty-four hours, under a penalty of five pounds for every loaf sold.

At a common hall, held on the 19th of February, it was resolved to present a petition to the House of Commons, praying them to take such measures as they might think proper for the purpose of restoring the blessings of peace; and the representatives of the city were instructed to support the same in the House of Commons.

A most alarming and extraordinary circumstance occurred at the Theatre Royal Drury-lane, on the evening of the 15th of May. At the moment when his majesty entered the box, a man in the pit stood up, and fired a pistol at him. The house was immediately in an uproar, and the cry of "seize him" burst from every part of the theatre. The king, apparently not the least disconcerted, came forward in the box; and the man who committed the crime was conveyed from the pit. The indignation of the audience could not be tranquillized until after repeated assurances that the culprit was in custody. On his examination he proved to be insane. He had been a soldier in the 15th light dragoons, and had received eight wounds in his head, from which it was believed his malady arose. He was tried for the offence, on the 26th of June, and acquitted on the ground of insanity, after which he was conveyed to a mad-house to be taken care of.

The celebration of his majesty's birth was again commenced with a review of the volunteer force of the metropolis and its vicinity, which differed in nothing from that of the preceding year, except in an increase of numbers, nearly twelve thousand being under arms on this day.

Soon after the prorogation of parliament, which took place on the 29th of July, apprehensions of tumult and riot alarmed many of the inhabitants of London. About the middle of August a refractory spirit had manifested itself among the felons in the prison in Cold Bath Fields. This was attributed to various publications on the state of this prison, which had appeared a short time before; and it was, perhaps, increased by the friendly attention of certain members of parliament, whose philanthropy, it was observed, was chiefly directed to men obnoxious to government, and to objects from which there was the greatest reason to hope for the reputation of benevolence. However this may be, their turbulence at length assumed a serious aspect; and, on the evening of the 14th, when the bell rung as the signal for locking up, instead of retiring to their cells, they collected together, appearing to have some design in agitation. However, after a trifling resistance, they were compelled to separate, and submit to being locked up. Immediately they began the most dismal exclamations of "Murder! Starving!" &c. which collected a considerable mob round the prison, who answered them with loud shouts. Thus encouraged, they continued their cries, beseeching the mob to force the gates and pull down the walls to release them. In this dilemma it was found necessary to apply for assistance from the civil magistrates and the military associations in the neighbourhood, by whose exertions tranquillity was again restored.

The attempts of the disaffected to incite the populace to outrage were but too successful in the month of September. Written hand-bills were thrown about at this time, provoking the people to rise, and, in particular, two large ones, of the above tendency, were stuck on the Monument, on Sunday the 14th, inviting them "as they valued their rights as Englishmen, to attend at the Corn-market on Monday, which would soon reduce the price of bread to sixpence the quartern loaf." These incitements to popular outrage induced the lord mayor to take the necessary precautions to secure the public peace; he collected the civil officers, and applied to the volunteer corps, from whom he received assurances of support, and that they would await his orders. In the morning of Monday the mob assembled at the Corn-market, to which the lord mayor immediately repaired, and persuaded them to disperse, which they did; but as soon as he quitted the spot, they returned. Several of the dealers in corn were illtreated by them, and the windows of some houses in the neighbourhood were broke; and when, in the end, they were driven off by the volunteers, they attacked the houses of some bakers and corn-factors, at Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and Blackfriars-road. This spirit of riot and discontent continued during the whole week; but the vigour and promptitude of the magistrates, seconded by the firmness and humanity of the volunteers, prevented the mistaken multitude from effecting any greater mischief, than the breaking of windows and lamps; which was happily accomplished without bloodshed.

Another attempt was made, in this year, to get a petition from a common-hall, received by his majesty upon the throne, but without success; on which a resolution was passed, on the 9th of October, "That whoever advised his majesty to persist in refusing to his faithful subjects free access, in these times of peculiar difficulty and distress, is equally unworthy of his majesty's confidence, and an enemy to the rights and privileges of the citizens of London."

A court of common-council was held, on the 14th, when an address, to the same purport as the petition of the livery, praying his majesty to convene the parliament, on account of the excessive price of every article of life, was agreed to. This address was presented to the king, on the 16th; but it was rendered unnecessary, by directions having been previously given to summon the parliament for the dispatch of business.

On the 3d of December, his majesty in council, in compliance with the request of the two houses, issued his royal proclamation, exhorting all persons, who have the means of procuring other food than corn, to use the strictest economy in the use of every kind of grain, by abstaining from pastry, and reducing the consumption of bread in their respective families; and also, all persons keeping houses, especially those for pleasure, to restrict their consumption of grain, as far as circumstances will admit.

⁂ In conformity to the notice given in No. 12, the history of the public transactions of London will now be discontinued, to be resumed in an appendix, in which every occurrence of moment, from the commencement of the present century to the termination of the work, will be recorded. In order, however, to prevent the history of the year 1800 from being incomplete, we shall now briefly notice two events, which, being terminated in the 19th century, belong more properly to it.

The most prominent of these, as affecting the commerce of London, is the commencement of the wet docks, in different places, for the greater accommodation of vessels employed in its trade. Nothing can show more strongly the necessity that existed for extending and improving the conveniencies of the port of London, than the following statement of the increase in the number of vessels, and their tonnage, engaged in the trade of the river Thames, in the course of the 18th century, which amounted to six thousand five hundred and forty-seven vessels of different descriptions, and one million three hundred and twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-three tons, viz.

	Vessels.	Tons.
Increase in the coasting trade,	4613	927,550
——— in the foreign trade,		
British vessels, -	587	250,352
Foreign ditto, -	1347	149,861
Total	6547	1,327,763

A full account of these docks will be given in another part of the work.

The other is, the loss and inconvenience experienced by the underwriters and merchants of London, towards the conclusion of the year, by an unexpected embargo being laid on all the British shipping in the ports of Russia. No less than one hundred and five vessels were detained at Petersburgh, seventy-one at Riga, and a considerable number in the other ports, the greater part of which were from London; and all the seamen belonging to them were marched in small parties to a great distance up the country. The distress and anxiety of the wives and families of these men, were, however, something alleviated by a liberal subscription, entered into by the principal merchants concerned in the Russian trade, for their relief, who also agreed to continue the pay of the men till they should be liberated and permitted to return.

HISTORY AND SURVEY

OF

London & its Environs.

BOOK II.

SURVEY OF LONDON, WESTMINSTER, AND SOUTHWARK.

CHAP. I.

General description of London.—Situation.—Soil.—Extent.—Streets.—Supply of Water.—Salubrity.—Population.—Boundaries of London within the Walls.—Liberties of London.—Bills of Mortality.

LONDON is delightfully situated in a spacious valley, on the banks of the Thames, at the distance of sixty miles from the sea. It stands on a bed of gravel intermixed with clay, and is defended from the bleak winds of the north by the rising grounds about Islington, and the hills of Highgate and Hampstead, while it lies delightfully open to the more genial western breezes. Its length, from east to west, is about seven miles, and its greatest breadth, from north to south, nearly four miles; though, in some places, it is not much more than half that width. The circumference of the contiguous buildings is about twenty-five miles, and the area of the whole is between eight and nine square miles. This includes the three principal divisions, viz. the cities of London and Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark, with their respective suburbs. The two former are situated on the northern bank of the river, at a place where it forms a crescent: the last on the south bank, on a spot which was anciently a morass; and the communication between them is kept up by means of three grand stone bridges.

The principal streets of London are wide and airy, and surpass all others in Europe for accommodation and convenience. The carriage way in the middle of them is paved with granite or Scotch pebbles; and, on each side, is a broad raised path for foot passengers, formed of flags, Portland stone, or Moorstone. The soil and mud which accumulates in the streets, are taken away at stated intervals, by scavengers employed by the different parishes, and the waste water is conveyed into the Thames, through arched vaults built under them for that purpose, called sewers; communicating with each house by smaller ones, and with the streets by gratings placed in the channels.

An air of neatness and comfort prevails very generally through all parts of the metropolis, except those inhabited by the lowest order of the people; and the streets appropriated to retail shops have an unrivalled aspect of wealth and splendour.

No city in the world is better supplied with water than London, every house in which, may receive a regular supply of this necessary article, three times a week, by paying a moderate annual sum to one of water-companies.

This ample supply of water, as it affords the means of cleanliness, is one of the most effectual preventives of the malignant diseases with which London was formerly infected. But though this may be considered as the principal, it is not the only cause of the present salubrity of the metropolis: the width of the streets being greatly increased, a much freer circulation of air is obtained, while the subterraneous sewers or drains prevent the stagnation of foul and putrid water, and carry off a great quantity of filth which would otherwise lie and corrupt in the streets.

The population of London has been a very fertile source of conjecture to historiographers. The returns under the population act however, though perhaps somewhat incorrect, leave very little to be guessed at on this subject. According to them the number is as follows.

	Houses.		Persons.		
	Inhabited.	By how many Families occupied.	Male.	Female	Total of Persons.
London, within the walls	10224	16229	37020	38151	75171
——— without the walls	20680	36178	69827	77402	147229
Out-parishes in Middlesex and Surrey -	56207	93886	163899	200627	364526
City and liberties of Westminster -	18231	40833	71301	86909	158210
Inns of court extra-parochial	1230	816	1293	614	1907
Parishes not within the bills of mortality -	14657	28181	50059	67773	117802
Total	121229	216073	393369	471476	864845

In this account, the number of uninhabited houses is omitted, as well as that of occasional residents; and some allowance must also be made for those having two residences, within this extent; some of whom may have been returned at both places, and others not returned at either; while many have been kept back from distrust, and others omitted through occasional absence.

The city of London, distinguished from the other parts of the metropolis, consists of two principal divisions; that part of it within the walls, and that without. The boundaries of London, within the walls, are as follow: from the Thames, the wall runs northward, on the east side of Fleet-ditch, two hundred and seventy yards, to within thirty yards of the south-west angle of Ludgate-street: thence it runs near one hundred and forty yards east, till it reaches within twenty yards of Ludgate: thence the wall continues northward (a little to the east of the Old-bailey), three hundred and thirty yards, to forty yards to the north of Newgate; then eastward, three hundred and ninety yards, to fifty-five yards eastward of Aldersgate; from whence it runs northward, two hundred and forty yards, to within thirty yards of the south-west angle of the church of St. Giles, Cripplegate; from thence to Cripplegate, and so continuing eastwardly, one thousand yards, to Bishopsgate, and thence, south-eastwardly, four hundred and eighty yards, to Aldgate; from whence it runs still south-eastwardly, four hundred and sixty-five yards, to within twenty yards of the middle of the north part of Tower-ditch: in the whole, three thousand three hundred and fifteen yards; to which adding the distance from the Tower to Fleet-ditch, which is two thousand one hundred and seventy yards, the whole circumference of the city, within the walls, appears to be five thousand four hundred and eighty-five yards, or three miles, and two hundred and five yards.

The whole ground, within the walls of the city of London, amounts to three hundred and seventy-three acres, and four-fifths of an acre.

Surrounding this is a large space of ground, within the liberty or freedom of the city, encompassed by an irregular line, called the *line of separation*, which divides the city from the county of Middlesex.

This line begins at the river east of the Temple, which it surrounds on the east and north sides; then passing through part of Shire-lane and Bell-yard, it comes into Chancery-lane by the liberty of the Rolls, and from thence into Holborn, almost opposite to Gray's-Inn-lane, where there is a bar. From hence it winds through Brooke-street, Furnival's-Inn, Leather-lane, Hatton-garden, and Chick-lane, to the common-sewer, from whence it returns westward to Cow-cross, and then to Smithfield-bars. It now passes between Long-lane and Charter-house-lane to Goswell-street, from whence it extends across Golden-lane, White-cross-street, and Grub-street, to Moorgate, and along the north-side of Moorfields, dividing it from the manor of Finsbury. It then runs northward to Norton-falgate, and from thence through Spitalfields and Wentworth-street to White-chapel. It now passes by the Little Minories to Goodman's fields, from whence it returns westward to the Minories, and still continues inclining to the west, till it meets the wall, where it abuts upon the Tower liberty.

The whole extent of ground between the city wall and this line does not exceed three-hundred acres, though the length of the line is twenty one thousand three hundred and seventy feet.

The bills of mortality were instituted in 1592, in order to ascertain the number of persons who died, during a great pestilence which then raged and continued to the end of December, 1595. After this they were discontinued until 1603, since which time a regular series of them has been preserved. At first they only included a hundred and nine parishes, but by the gradual addition of others the whole now amounts to a hundred and forty-six. They are as follows.

Within the walls.

St. Alban, in Wood-street
Alhallows, Barking
Alhallows, in Bread-street
Alhallows the Great
Alhallows, in Honey-lane
Alhallows the Less
Alhallows, in Lombard-st.
Alhallows, Staining
Alhallows on London-wall
St. Alphage, near Sion-college
St. Andrew Hubbard
St. Andrew Undershaft
St. Andrew by the Wardrobe
St. Anne within Aldersgate
St. Anne, in Black-friars
St. Anthony, vulgarly Austin
St. Bartholemew, by the Exchange
St. Benedict, vulgarly Bennet Finck
St. Bennet, Gracechurch
St. Bennet, at Paul's wharf
St. Bennet, Sherehog
St. Botolph, at Billingsgate
Christ-church parish
St. Christopher's parish
St. Clement, near Eastcheap
St. Dionis Backchurch
St. Dunstan, in the East
St. Edmund the King
St. Ethelburga's parish
St. Faith, under St. Paul's
St. Gabriel, in Fenchurch-street
St. George, in Botolph-lane
St. Gregory, by St. Paul's
St. Helen, near Bishopgate
St. James, in Duke's place
St. James, at Garlickhithe
St. John Baptist, near Dowgate
St. John the Evangelist
St. John Zachary
St. Katherine Coleman
St. Katherine-cree-church
St. Laurence, Jewry
St. Laurence, Poultry
St. Leonard, in Eastcheap

St. Leonard, in Foster-lane
St. Magnus, by London-bridge
St. Margaret, in Lothbury
St. Margaret Moses
St. Margaret, in New Fish street
St. Margaret Pattens
St. Martin, in Ironmonger lane
St. Martin, within Ludgate
St. Martin, Orgars
St. Martin, Outwich
St. Martin, Vintry
St. Mary, Abchurch
St. Mary, Aldermanbury
St. Mary, Aldermary
St. Mary-le-bow, in Cheapside
St. Mary Bothaw, at Dowlingsgate
St. Mary, Colechurch
St. Mary at Hill, near Billingsgate
St. Mary Magdalen, in Milk-street
St. Mary Magdalen, in Old Fish-street
St. Mary Mounthaw
St. Mary, Somerset
St. Mary, Staining
St. Mary, Woolchurch
St. Mary Woolnoth
St. Matthew, in Friday-st.
St. Michael Bassishaw
St. Michael, in Cornhill
St. Michael, in Crooked-l.
St. Michael, at Qu.-hithe
St. Michael-le-quern
St. Michael Royal
St. Michael, in Wood-st.
St. Mildred, in Bread-st.
St. Mildred, in the Poultry
St. Nicholas Acons
St. Nicholas Coleabbey
St. Nicholas Olave
St. Olave, in Hart-street
St. Olave, in the Old Jewry
St. Olave, in Silver-street
St. Pancras, in Pancras-la.
St. Peter, in Cheapside
St. Peter, in Cornhill
St. Peter, near Paul's-wharf
St. Peter-le-Poor, in Broad-street
St. Stephen, in Coleman-street
St. Stephen, in Walbrook
St. Swithin, at London-st.
St. Thomas the Apostle, Trinity parish
St. Vedast, alias Foster

Without the Walls.

St. Andrew in Holborn
St. Bartholemew the Grt.
St. Bartholemew the Less
St. Botolph without Aldersgate
St. Botolph without Aldgate

St. Botolph without Bishopsgate
St. Bridget, vulgarly St. Bride
St. Dunstan in the West
St. George, in Southwark
St. Giles, without Cripplegate
St. John, in Southwark
St. Olave, in Southwark
St. Saviour, in Southwark
St. Sepulchre, without Newgate
St. Thomas, in Southwark
Trinity, in the Minories.

In Middlesex and Surrey.

St. Anne, in Middlesex
Christ-church, in Surrey
Christ-church, in Middlesex
St. Dunstan, at Stepney
St. George, in Bloomsbury
St. George, in Middlesex
St. George, in Queen's-square
St. Giles, in the Fields
St. James, at Clerkenwell
St. John, at Clerkenwell
St. John, at Hackney
St. John, at Wapping
St. Katherine, by the Tower
St. Leonard, in Shoreditch
St. Luke, in Middlesex
St. Mary, at Islington
St. Mary, at Lambeth
St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey
St. Mary, at Newington
St. Mary, at Rotherhithe
St. Mary, in Whitechapel
St. Matthew, at Bethnal-green
St. Paul, at Shadwell

City and Liberties of Westminster.

St. Anne, in Westminster
St. Clement Danes
St. George, Hanover-square
St. James, in Westminster
St. John the Evangelist, in Westminster
St. Margaret, in Westminster
St. Martin, in the Fields
St. Mary-le-Strand
The Precinct of the Savoy
St. Paul, in Covent-garden

Each of these will form a subject of separate consideration, beginning with the city of London.

CHAP. II

CHAP. II.

Description of the Walls.—City Gates.—Postern Gate.—Aldgate.—Bishopsgate.—Moorgate.—Cripplegate.—Aldersgate.—Newgate.—Ludgate.—Bridgegate.—Water-gates.—The Town-ditch.—Division of the City into Wards.—The Number of them increased.—Table of them.

The period at which the wall of London was originally built, as has been already mentioned, cannot now be determined; neither is there any certainty whether the first wall extended along the side of the river, though it undoubtedly did so in the time of the Saxons.

The ancient historian, Fitzstephen, informs us, that there was a tower palatine on the east of the city, and two castles on the west: the first was the square white Tower of London, built at the south-east corner of the city wall, and the others, the castles of Baynard and Mountfitchet; the last of which was situated in Blackfriars, on the spot of ground since occupied by the King's printing-office.

On the land-side, the wall was guarded by lofty towers, fifteen in number, some remains of which were visible lately. Maitland mentions three, all of which have been demolished, so that not a trace remains. When perfect, the walls are supposed to have been twenty-two feet high, and the towers forty.

Dr. Woodward had an opportunity of examining the fabric and composition of this wall, in the year 1707, when a part of it was pulled down, near Bishopsgate, to make way for new buildings. From his account of the materials, and the disposition of them, there can be no doubt that the old wall was Roman; to which considerable additions had afterwards been made, both in the height and thickness, though at what time could not be ascertained. The most perfect part of this wall, now remaining, is behind Bethlem-hospital, in the street known by the name of London-wall.

In former ages, the citizens considered their walls of such importance, that, to prevent their receiving any injury, they made a law, that no tenement should be built within five yards of them.

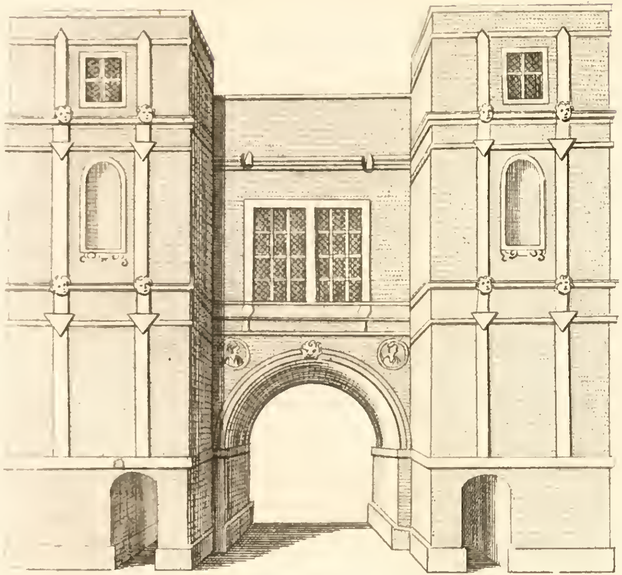
There appears to have been, anciently, but four gates in the wall of the city; viz. Aldgate on the east; Aldersgate on the north; Ludgate on the west; and Bridgegate, upon London-bridge, on the south: but, in process of time, several other gates and posterns were erected, for the convenience of bringing goods and provisions into the city, and for the accommodation of the citizens, in passing to their fields and gardens.

In the description of the city gates, we shall begin with the south-east angle of the ancient city wall, where the old Tower of London, commonly called the White Tower, is situated.

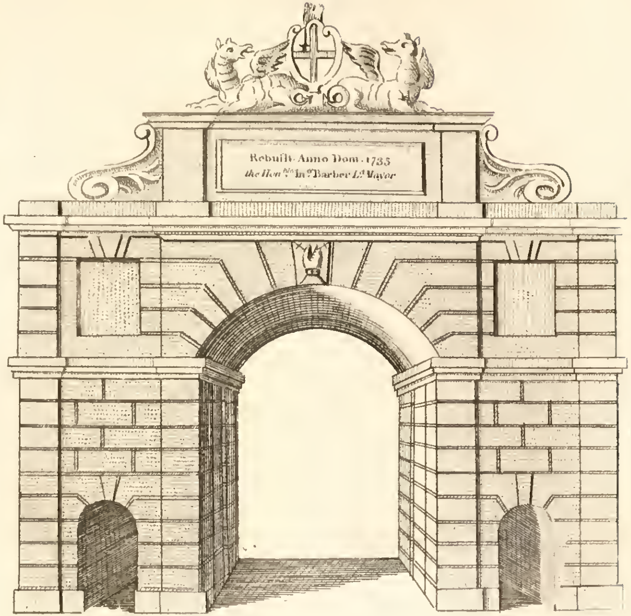
The *Postern-gate* stood at the east end of Postern-row, on Tower-hill; and, by a part of it which was remaining when Stow wrote his Survey of London, appeared to have been a strong, handsome, arched gate. It was erected soon after the conquest, partly with Kentish stones, and partly with stones brought from Caen, in Normandy.

The destruction of this gate commenced in the year 1190, when William Longchamp, Bishop of Ely, and Chancellor of England (the favourite of Richard I.) caused a part of the city wall to be broken down, to enlarge the Tower of London, which he then encompassed with a wide ditch, and an embattled wall, which is the outer wall of the Tower at this time.

ALD GATE



BISHOPS-GATE


Rebuilt Anno Dom. 1735
the Honble Jno Barber Ld Mayor

Published by M. Jones, Paternoster Row May 10. 1805.

The Postern-gate, being thus deprived of the support of the city wall, on one side, fell down in the year 1440, and was never rebuilt; but in the place of it was erected a mean building of timber, lath, and loam; which is likewise decayed, and all remains of it totally removed.

In the place where this gate stood, there are now several posts set up, to prevent the passage of carts and coaches, room being left, between the posts, for foot-passengers.

Adjoining hereto is a descent, by several steps, to an excellent spring of water, called the Postern-spring; near to which is an iron bowl, fastened by a chain, for the use of any person who chuses to drink the water, which is greatly esteemed. It has been lately walled in.

Aldgate, or, *Ealdgate* (which signifies *Old Gate)*, was one of the four original gates of the city, and that through which the Roman vicinal way led to the *Trajectus*, or ferry at Old-ford. The earliest mention we can find of it, is in a charter granted by King Edgar, about the year 967.

This gate being in a very ruinous condition, was pulled down in the year 1606, and rebuilt; but it was not completed till 1609.

In digging the foundation, several Roman coins were discovered, resemblances of two of which Mr. Bond, one of the surveyors of the work, caused to be cut in stone, and placed on each side of the east front, where they remained till the demolition of the gates.

In a large square, on the same side of the gate, was placed the statue of King James I. in gilt armour, with a golden lion, and a chained unicorn, both couchant at his feet.

On the west side of the gate was a figure of Fortune, gilt, and standing on a globe, with a prosperous sail spreading over her head; under which was carved the king's arms, with the motto, *Dieu et mon Droit*, and a little below it, *Vivat Rex:* somewhat lower, on the south side, stood Peace, with a dove perched on one hand, and a gilded wreath in the other.

On the north side of the gate was the figure of Charity, with a child at her breast, and another in her hand.

On the top of the gate was a vane, supported by a gilt sphere; on each side of which stood a soldier holding a bullet in his hand, on the top of the upper battlements.

Over the arch of the gate were carved the following words;

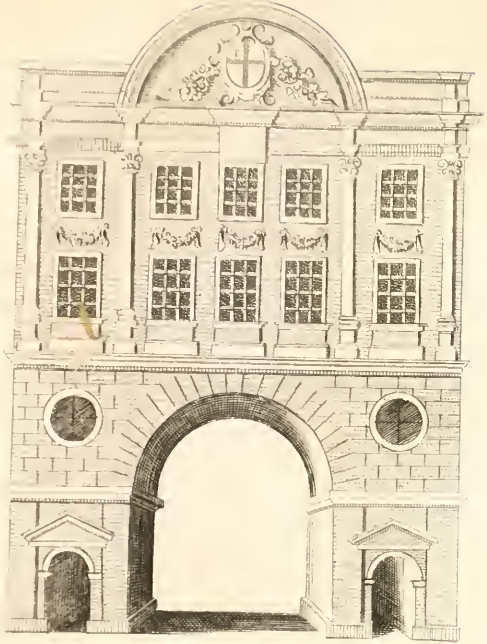
Senatus Populusque Londinensis
Fecit, 1609,
HUMPHREY WELD, *Maior.*

There were two posterns through this gate; that on the south side of which was made as late as the year 1734. There was likewise apartments over the gate, which were appropriated to the use of one of the lord mayor's carvers, but had, of late years, been used as a charity-school.

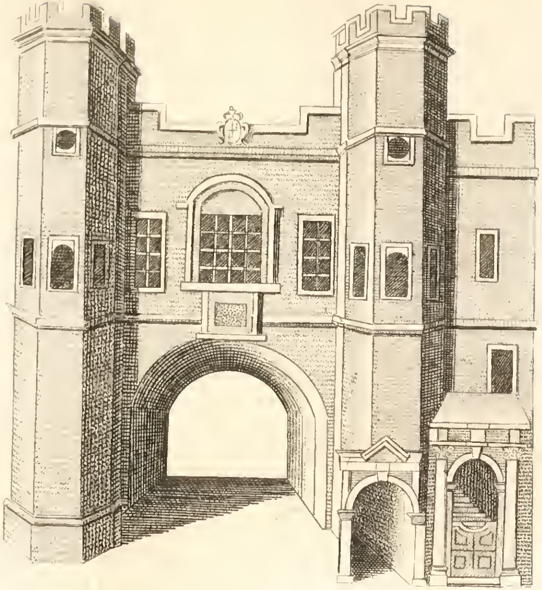
Bishopsgate was situated one thousand four hundred and forty feet north-west from the former. Though the building of this gate is attributed to Erkenwald, Bishop of London, about the year 675, Stow could find no mention made of it earlier than the year 1210, when William Blound, one of the sheriffs of London, sold his land and gardens without Bishopsgate, to the wardens of London-bridge.

Henry III. granted several privileges to the Anseatic merchants, for which they were bound to keep this gate in repair; and also to defend it whenever

MOORE GATE



CRIPPLE GATE



Engraved for Lamberts History of London.

Published by T. Hughes No. 1 Stationers Court June 15th 1805.

ever it should be attacked by an enemy. Accordingly, it was elegantly rebuilt by them in 1479.

On the south side over the gateway, was placed a stone image of a bishop with a mitre on his head: he had a long beard, eyes sunk, and an old mortified face, and was supposed to represent St. Erkenwald.

On the north side was another figure of a bishop with a smooth face, reaching out his right hand to bestow his benedictions, and holding a crosier in his left, who is thought to have been Bishop William the Norman. This last was accompanied by two other figures in stone, supposed to represent king Alfred, and his son Eldred, Earl of Mercia. In the year 1551, the above mentioned merchants prepared stone for rebuilding the gate; but that company being dissolved about this period, a stop was put to the work, and the old gate remained till the year 1731, when it was quite taken down, and rebuilt at the expense of the city. When it was almost finished, the arch of the gate fell down; but though it was a great thoroughfare, and this accident happened in the middle of day, no person was hurt.

Over the gateway, was a carving of the city arms, supported by dragons, and on each side of the gate was a postern for the convenience of foot passengers.

The rooms in the ancient gate were appropriated to the use of one of the lord mayor's carvers; but, in the stead thereof, he has been of late years paid twenty pounds per annum by the city.

In the year 1415, during the mayoralty of Thomas Falconer, the wall of the city was broken near Coleman-street, and a postern built which was since called *Moorgate*, from its vicinity to Moorfields.

In the year 1511 this postern was re-edified, dikes and bridges were made, and the ground levelled, and made more commodious for the citizens to pass to their adjacent fields and gardens.

The late edifice, which was one of the most magnificent gates of the city, was erected in the year 1647, and consisted of a lofty arch, and two posterns for foot passengers.

The upper part of the gate was adorned with Corinthian pilasters, supporting their proper entablatures, and with a round pediment, in which was the city arms: and the apartments over the gate were appropriated to the use of one of the lord mayor's carvers.

About the year 1636, the city wall between Bishopsgate was broken down opposite Winchester-street, and a postern gate made there for the accommodation of foot passengers; but this has been taken away, and the foot-way considerably enlarged.

In the year 1635 the posterns of Basinghall and Aldermanbury were erected; but these also have been taken away, by order of the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council; and the several passages through London-wall to Fore-street, are now open, elegant and commodious.

At the distance of one thousand and thirty-two feet to the west of Moorgate, stood *Cripplegate*, so named from a number of cripples, who formerly begged there.

The great antiquity of this gate cannot be doubted; for, in the history of Edmund, king of the East Angles, written by Albas Floriacensis, and since that, by John Lydgate, Monk of Bury, it is asserted, that, in the year 1010, the Danes ravaging the kingdom of the East Angles, Alwin, Bishop of Helmeham, caused the body of King Edmund the Martyr to be conveyed from Bury St. Edmunds, through the kingdom of the East Saxons, and into London, by the way of Cripplegate, where it is pretended that the body wrought miracles, making some of the lame walk upright, praising God.

Its antiquity likewise appears from the charter of William the Conqueror, confirming the foundation of the college in London, called St. Martin the Great, in which are these words: "I do give and grant unto the same church, and canons, serving God therein, all the lands, and the moor without the postern, which is called Cripplegate, on either part of the postern." This gate was formerly used as a prison, to which debtors, and persons charged with trespasses, were committed.

In the year 1244, this gate was rebuilt by the company of Brewers of London; and, in the year 1483, Edmund Shaw, Mayor of the city, bequeathed by his will four hundred marks, which, with the remains of the old gate, was to build a new one; and this was accordingly performed in the year 1491.

The last account we have of any reparation of this gate, is in the year 1663, when the following inscription was placed upon it:

"This gate was repaired and beautified, and the foot-postern new made, at the charge of the city of London, the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles II. and in the mayoralty of Sir John Robinson, Knight and Baronet, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, and Alderman of this ward; A. D. 1663.

This gate, which was a plain solid edifice, and void of all ornament, had more of the appearance of a fortification than any other gate of the city. The rooms over it were occupied by the water-bailiff of the city; and the gate had only one postern.

Mr. Maitland has given it as his opinion, that, in the year 1010, this was the only gate in the north-wall of the city, as it stood more convenient for one of the original gates than Aldersgate; and he thinks that this gate was originally erected over the Roman military way, which was called the Ermine street, and led from London to Hornsey.

. It is not impossible that the custom of making proclamation at the end of Wood-street, in Cheapside, may have arisen from the circumstance of its having been one of the old Roman military ways.

Aldersgate, which was situated one thousand two hundred and sixty-five feet south-west of Cripplegate, was, according to the opinion of Stow, one of the original gates of the city; but Maitland could find no mention of it before the conquest; whence he concludes that it was not erected before that period.

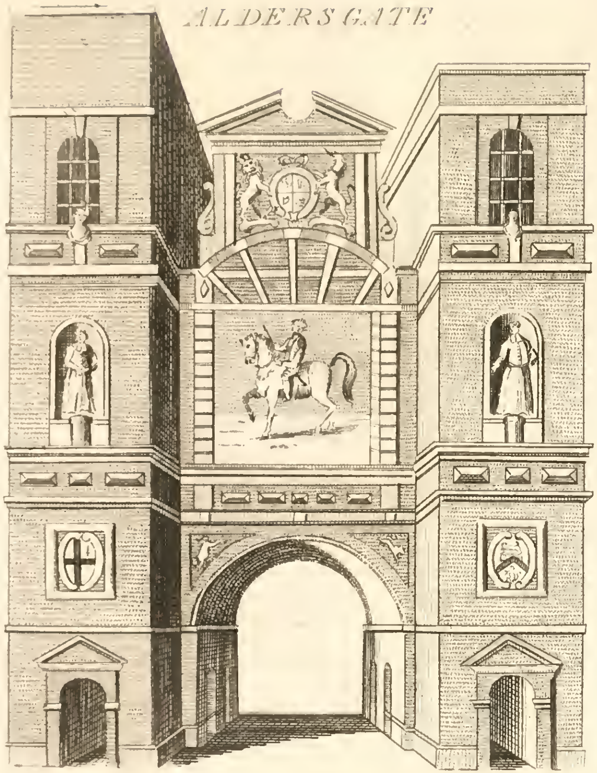
This gate being in so ruinous a condition as to be in danger of falling, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, ordered it to be taken down, which was accordingly done in the year 1616, when it was rebuilt in a substantial manner; Mr. William Parker, Merchant-taylor, having bequeathed a thousand pounds towards the expense of a new edifice.

In a large square over the arch of the gate was the figure of King James I. on horseback. Above his head were quartered the arms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

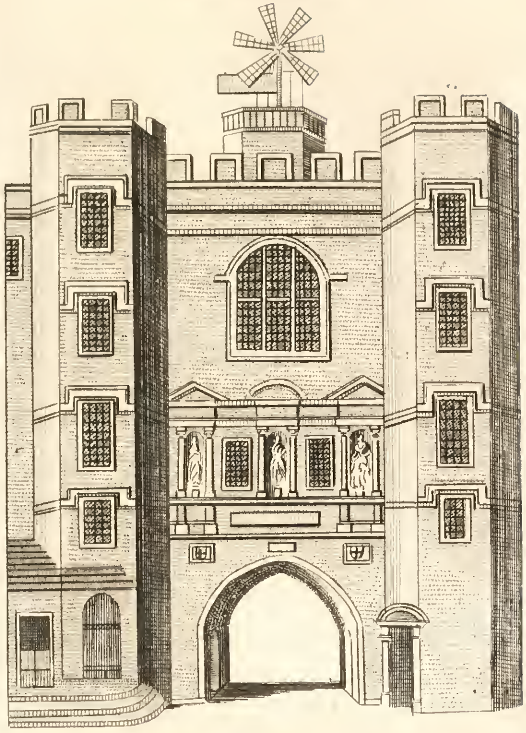
In a niche on the east side was the Prophet Jeremiah, with the words of the 25th verse of the 17th chapter of his book. In a niche on the west side stood the Prophet Samuel, with the 1st verse of the 12th chapter of the 1st book of that prophet. On the south side was the effigies of King James I. in his royal robes, sitting in a chair of state, done in relief.

This gate was very much damaged by the great fire in 1666; but was repaired and beautified, at the

ALDERSGATE



NEWGATE



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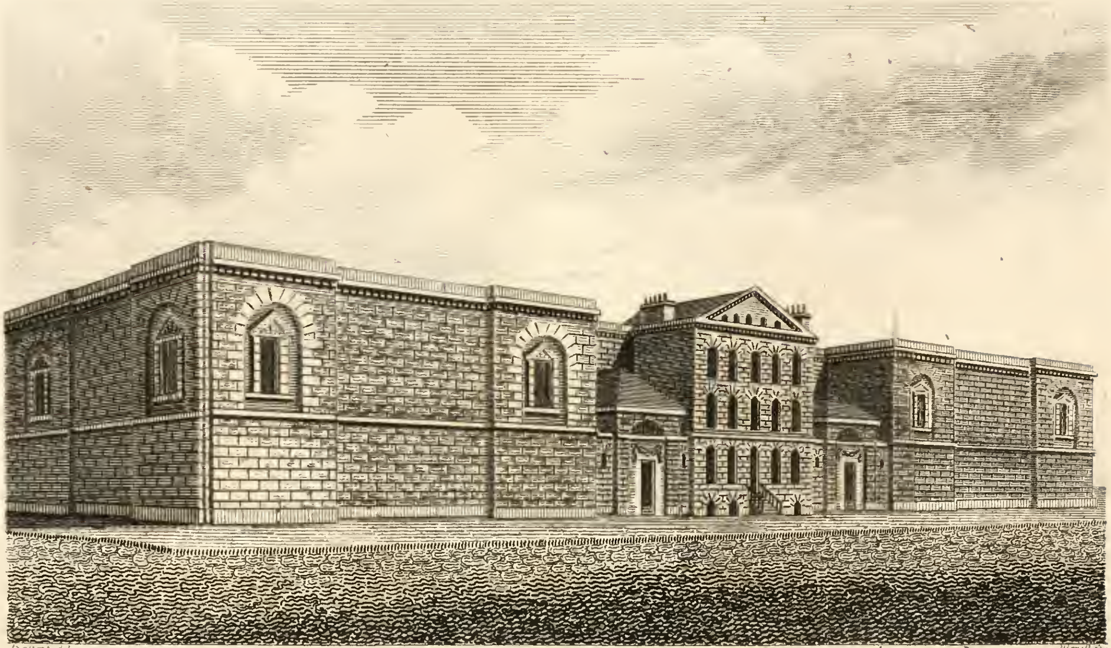


Prattent del. Morrell sc.

Designed & Engraved for Lamberts Hiſtory of London.

Newgate

Published by T. Hughes Stationers Court Aug. 10 1805 expense of the city, in the year 1670, during the mayoralty of Sir Samuel Stirling, Knight.

The apartments over the gate were appropriated to the use of the common crier of the city, and by the sides of the gate were two posterns for the convenience of foot passengers.

Newgate was situated at the distance of one thousand and thirty-seven feet south-west from the spot where Aldersgate did stand; and it is the opinion of most of our antiquarians, that it obtained its name from being erected in the reign of Henry I. several hundred years after the four original gates of the city.

Howel dissents from this opinion, and asserts that it was only repaired in the above-mentioned reign, and that it was anciently denominated *Chamberlain-gate*: but if this be true, it is very extraordinary that this gate is not once mentioned before the conquest.

It appears, however, from ancient records, that it was called Newgate, and was a common jail for felons taken in the city of London, or the county of Middlesex, as early as the year 1218; and that so lately as the year 1457, Newgate, and not the Tower, was the prison for the nobility and great officers of state.

Newgate, being much damaged by the fire of London in 1666, was repaired in the year 1672.

The west side of this gate was adorned with three ranges of Tuscan pilasters, with their entablatures, and in the intercolumniations were four niches, in one of which was a figure representing liberty, having the word *Libertas* inscribed on her cap; and at her feet a cat, in allusion to the story of Sir Richard Whittington.

The east side of the gate was likewise adorned with a range of pilasters, and in three niches the figures of justice, mercy, and truth.

At the distance of seven hundred and ninety-seven feet south of Newgate, was situated *Ludgate*, which, according to Geffrey of Monmouth, derived its name from King Lud, a Briton, who, according to that author, built it about sixty years before the birth of Christ.

But, as Geffrey's pretended history is now universally acknowledged to be the mere production of an inventive brain, his assertion has no weight with the judicious; for it is certain that the ancient Britons had no walled towns. This name, therefore, is with much greater appearance of probability, derived from the rivulet Flood, Flud, Vloat, Fleote, or Fleet, which ran into Fleet-ditch, and it was very probably called Ludgate, instead of its original name, Fludgate.

In the year 1373, this gate was constituted a prison for poor debtors, who were free of the city; and it was afterwards greatly enlarged by Sir Stephen Forster.

This gentleman had been a prisoner there, and was begging at the gate, when a rich widow passing by, asked him what sum would procure his discharge; and, on his answering twenty pounds (which at that time was a considerable sum) she generously advanced the money.

His liberty being thus obtained, his kind benefactress took him into her service, in which, by his indefatigable application to business, and his obliging behaviour, he gained the affections of his mistress, and married her; after which he had such great success in trade, that he became lord mayor of London, and obtained the honour of knighthood.

In his prosperity, Sir Stephen thought of the place of his confinement, and, acquainting his lady with a design he had formed of enlarging the prison, she also determined to contribute to the execution of so benevolent a plan.

Hereupon, they caused several of the houses near the gate to be pulled down, and in their stead erected a strong square stone building, containing the following rooms, viz. the porch, the paper-house, the watch-hall, the upper and lower lumberies, the cellar, the long ward, and the chapel; in the last of which were the following inscriptions:

"This chapel was erected and ordained for the divine worship and service of God, by the Right Honourable Sir Stephen Forster, Knight, some time lord-mayor of this honourable city, and by Dame Agnes his wife, for the use and godly exercise of the prisoners in this prison of Ludgate, Anno 1454."

Devout soules that passe this way,
For Stephen Forster, late Maior, heartily pray,
And Dame Agnes, his spouse to God consecrate,
That of pitie this house made for Londoners in Ludgate.
So that for Lodging and water, prisoners here nought pay,
As their keepers shall all answere at dreadful doomes-day.

These venerable founders not only settled a salary for a chaplain of this prison, but ordered that all the rooms in these additional buildings should be for ever free to all unfortunate citizens, and that they, on providing their own bedding, should pay nothing at their discharge for lodging or chamber rent: but the avaricious disposition of the keepers broke through this appointment, and for many years, they took rent for the rooms, contrary to the express order of the generous donor.

Bridegate stood upon London-bridge, from whence its name was derived, and was supposed to have been one of the four principal gates of the city, before the conquest, when there was only a bridge of timber over the Thames.

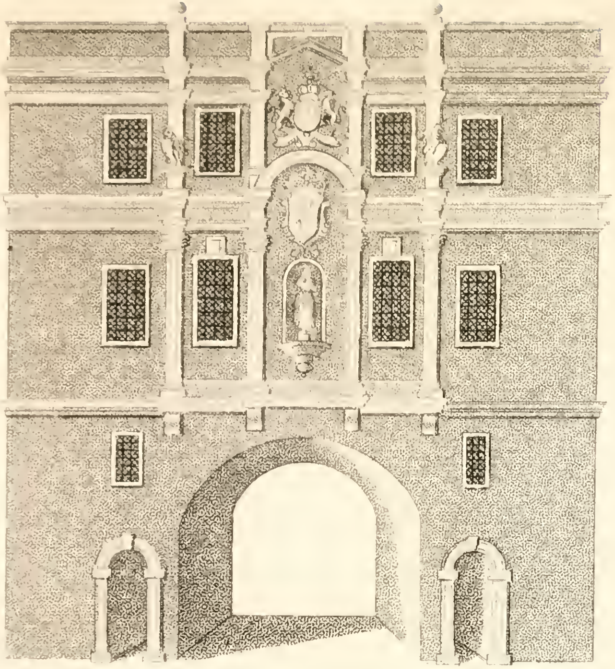
In the year 1436, this gate with the tower upon it fell down, and being rebuilt, was burnt in the year 1471, by some riotous mariners of Kent.

The gate erected after this being greatly damaged by fire in 1726, was soon afterwards taken down and rebuilt: it was compleated in 1728, two posterns being added for the convenience of foot passengers.

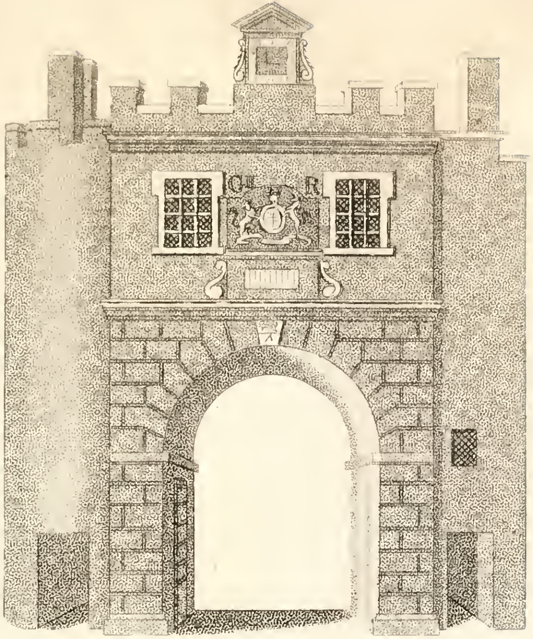
Over the arch, on the south side, were the king's arms, with the following inscription underneath: " This gate was widened from eleven to eighteen feet in the mayoralty of Edward Bacher, Knt. S. P. Q. L.

Stow, and later writers also name a considerable number of gates on the river side, viz. Dowgate, Wolfgate, Ebgate, Oistergate, Botolphgate, Billingsgate, &c. But they appear to have been only wharfs or places for landing goods. None of these were of any note except the first, called properly *Dwr* or the *water-gate*, where there was a Trajectus or Ferry, in the Watling-street, which crossed the Thames, at this place and was continued to Dover.

The town ditch was a stupendous piece of work, undertaken by the Londoners themselves; which, notwithstanding a very great number of hands was employed, took upwards of two years to be completed, being two hundred feet in breadth, and extending, on the outside of the walls, from the Tower to Christ's Hospital. According to some, this additional defence was undertaken between the years 1190 and 1193, though others think it was not begun until 1213, in the reign of King John. For some centuries, the citizens were at great expense in cleansing, and keeping it open, but the last attempt, in 1595, was so unsuccessful,



Lud Gate.



Bridge Gate.

cessful, owing to the increased height of the adjacent ground, which caused it to fill again very shortly, that it was thought useless, as well as too expensive, to cleanse it again, and it was therefore given up.

The division of the city into wards, or aldermanries, is very ancient, but the number of them is unknown, prior to 1285, when, according to the Liber albus, it was divided into twenty four wards (See Vol. 1 p. 165) each of which was empowered to chuse its own aldermen and common-councilmen. It is probable that this was the first instance of that privilege being granted to the commons of London; for Ralph de Arderne was seized in fee of an aldermanry or ward in London; which descending to his son Thomas, he, in 1277, sold it, with all its appurtenances to Ralph le Feure, for twenty marks, and a quit-rent of one clove or slip of gilliflower at Easter. This ward was afterwards purchased by Thomas Farendon, from whom it derives its present name; which leads to a belief that anciently the wards changed their names with their masters. The division of this ward into two, increased the number to twenty five; and when in 1550, the liberties of the Borough of Southwark were granted to the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of London, a twenty-sixth ward was formed, by the name of Bridge ward without: and this number has continued ever since.

Of these wards thirteen are on the east side of Walbrook, viz.

1 Portsoken ward without Aldgate.
2 Tower-street ward
3 Aldgate ward
4 Lime-street ward
5 Bishopsgate ward, within and without.
6 Broad-street ward
7 Cornhill ward.
8 Langbourn ward
9 Billingsgate ward
10 Bridge ward within
11 Candlewick-street ward
12 Walbrook ward
13 Dowgate ward.

Wards to the west of Walbrook, twelve, viz.

14 Vintry ward
15 Cordwainer-street ward
16 Cheap ward
17 Coleman-street ward
18 Bassishaw ward
19 Cripplegate ward; within and without.
20 Aldersgate ward within and without.
21 Faringdon ward within
22 Bread-street ward
23 Queen-hythe ward
24 Castle Baynard ward
25 Faringdon ward without.

And 26. Bridge ward without, in the Borough of Southwark.

CHAP. III.

Of Portsoken ward without Aldgate—Anciently a Guild called Knighten Guild—Bounds—Precincts—Principal Streets—Whitechapel—Minories—Parish of the Trinity in the Minories——Houndsditch—Parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate.

THIS ward takes its name from being situated entirely without the wall of the city; the word Portsoken signifying a liberty or franchise at the gate. It was anciently a guild, called knighten guild, from having been granted by King Edgar to thirteen knights who had distinguished themselves by their valour. In the year 1115, the descendants of these knights surrendered all the lands and soke belonging to this guild, to the priory of the Holy Trinity within Aldgate; from which time the prior of that convent was admitted as one of the aldermen of London to govern the land and soke, who, according to the customs of the city, sat in the court, and accompanied the mayor and aldermen in public processions, cloathed in scarlet or such other livery as they used, until the year 1531, when the priory was surrendered to King Henry VIII. whogave it to Sir Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor, by whom the church was pulled down. Since this dissolution, the ward of Portsoken has been governed by a temporal person, elected by the citizens, as the aldermen of the other wards are.

The ancient bounds of the knighten guild extended further to the south and east than those of the present ward, and included all East Smithfield, St Catharine's, with the mills founded in King Stephen's days, and the outward stone wall and new ditch of the Tower, which were made in the time of Richard I. by William Longshampe, Bishop of Ely; but part of these were afterwards forcibly withheld by the constables of the Tower. The ward is now bounded on the east by the parishes of Spitalfields, Stepney, and St George's in the east; on the north by Bishopsgate ward; on the west by Aldgate ward, and on the south by Tower-hill. It has an alderman, five common council-men, five constables, nineteen inquest-men, and a beadle; and is divided into five precincts, viz. Houndsditch, High-street, the Bars, Tower-hill, and Convent-garden. The principal streets within these limits are Whitechapel, as far as the bars; the Minories and Houndsditch.

Whitechapel is a spacious street, beginning just without the spot where Aldgate stood. It takes its name from the church of St. Mary Matfellon, which stands in it, and was originally a chapel of ease to St. Dunstan, Stepney, called from the colour of its outside, the White-chapel. On the south side of this street is a large market for carcases of butcher's meat; and, beyond the bars, is a market three times a week for hay and straw. On the north side are several considerable inns for the accommodation of travellers, and the resort of coaches, waggons, &c. this being the principal eastern entrance into London from the county of Essex.

Parallel to the wall, between Whitechapel and Little Tower-hill, is the street called the Minories; so called from certain nuns of the order of St. Clare, or minoresses, for whose reception, Blanch, queen of Navarre, wife of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, founded a convent there in 1293.

This street, from being as despicable as any in the city, is now the residence of considerable tradesmen, among whom are several distinguished gunsmiths. The west side of it has been almost entirely rebuilt with very large, uniform and elegant houses, and several new streets have been made, leading into Crutched Friars. On this side also, are America Square, the Crescent, and the Circus, inhabited principally by eminent merchants.

On the east side of the Minories, is a passage leading to the place called the Little Minories, in which is situated the parish church of the Trinity in the Minories. This church stands on part of the site of the convent mentioned above, which on its suppression in 1593 was taken down; a number of small houses being built in its stead, and a small church for the use of the inhabitants, which was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, from whence it derives its present appellation; and the epithet Minories was added to it from its situation on the spot formerly occupied by the minoresses convent. This church, which was rebuilt in 1706, is of brick, with a flat roof, covered with plain tiles, and has two aisles. There is no steeple to this church, but it has a handsome turret, at the west end. It is the burial place of the family of the Legge's, Earls of Dartmouth; to one of whose ancestors, a house called the King's, built on the site of the suppressed monastery, was granted by Charles II.

The curate of this parish, for it is neither rectory nor vicarage, holds the same by an instrument of donation under the Great Seal of England. The income is very small, being only twenty five pounds per annum, collected from the inhabitants, besides surplice fees.

The parish being the close of the monastery, is a particular liberty, and exempt from the jurisdiction of London, although part of the ward of Portsoken.

Houndsditch also runs parallel to the city wall, and extends from Whitechapel to Bishopsgate-street. It is a long street, and was formerly a filthy ditch, which took its name from being the place into which dead dogs and all kinds of dirt were thrown. Into this ditch, Canute ordered the body of Edrick, a noble Saxon, who had basely murdered his master, Edmund Ironside, to be thrown, as unworthy of sepulture, after he had been tormented to death by burning torches. This street was first inhabited by bed-ridden people, for whom some prior of the Holy Trinity, to which priory the ground belonged, had built small cottages; and it was customary for the devout inhabitants of the city to walk that way, purposely, that they might bestow their alms upon some of these objects, who were laid on beds near the windows, which opened so low towards the street, that every passer-by might see them; each of them was covered with a clean linen cloth, and a pair of beads laid on it, intended to show their helpless state, and that they were incapable of all but prayer. This street was first paved in the year 1503.

At the south-east corner of this street, opposite to the Minories, stands the parish church of St. Botolph, Aldgate. It is one of the four churches in London, dedicated to that favourite saint, Botolph, the Briton. This church is a rectory of very ancient foundation, the patronage of which was, originally, in the proprietors of Portsoken-ward, who, in the year 1115, gave it to the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity. At the dissolution of that priory, it was seized by the crown; and, in 1577, Queen Elizabeth gave it to Robert Holliwell, for a term of years, at the expiration of which, it was granted by James I. to Francis Morrice, from whom it descended to several others, and the impropriation has ever since continued in private hands.

The old church, which was rebuilt by the prior and canons of the Holy Trinity, a short time before the dissolution of that convent, escaped the fire in

1666,

1666, but had become so ruinous, in 1741, that it was taken down, and the present edifice completed in three years after. It is built with brick, and is a plain, massy, yet handsome structure. It consists of a body of a regular shape, and a lofty well-proportioned steeple, formed of a tower and spire; but its greatest ornament is the bold rustic at the corners. The body is well enlightened, and the inside neatly ornamented. Nearly half of this parish is without the freedom.

Here are two charity-schools; one in the freedom, founded by Sir John Cass, alderman, for fifty boys and forty girls. The other, in East Smithfield, for forty boys and thirty girls, founded by Sir Samuel Starling, knight, and alderman of the city of London; who, by his last will and testament, bearing date the 7th day of August, A. D 1673, gave certain copyhold lands and tenements, lying in East Smithfield, in the parish of St. Mary, Whitechapel, belonging to the manor of Stepney, in the county of Middlesex, the rents amounting to the value of twenty-two pounds yearly, as a foundation of a charity-school, for the better education of the poor youths of the parish of St. Botolph's, without Aldgate ; the schoolmaster to be a bachelor of arts, of the university of Cambridge, chosen by the inquest of the ward of Portsoken, and the leet-jury of the manor of East Smithfield, and to teach a school in a brick house, which he, the said Sir Samuel Starling, built at his own charge, at the east end of the town-house, or quest-house, upon Little Tower-hill, in the manor of East Smithfield.

CHAP. IV.

Of Tower-street Ward.—-Bounds.—-Principal Streets.—Thames-street.—St. Dunstan's in the East.—Coal-meter's Office.—Harp-lane.—Baker's Hall.—The Custom-house.—-Water-lane.---Mincing-lane.---Clothworker's Hall.—-Mark-lane.—The Corn Exchange.—Seething-lane.—Allhallows Barking.—-Hart-street.—St. Olave, Hart-street.—Whittington's Palace.

THE first ward in the east part of the city, within the wall, takes its name from Tower-street, which is so denominated from its leading, nearly in a direct line, to the principal entrance of the Tower. It is bounded on the east by Tower-hill, and part of Aldgate-ward; on the north by Langbourn-ward; on the west by Billingsgate-ward; and on the south by the river Thames. It extends from the Tower, in the east, to the mid-way between Great Dice-quay and Smart's-quay, in the west; and from the west corner of Tower-dock, in the south, to within seventy feet of the north-end of Rood-lane, in the north.

Within these boundaries are contained a great number of streets, lanes, &c. the principal of which are, Tower-street, part of Thames-street, Seething-lane, Mark-lane, Hart-street, Idol-lane, St. Dunstan's-hill, Harp-lane, &c. Great and Little Tower-hill, forming a precinct distinct from the other parts of this ward, will be considered separately, with the other out-parts, when the survey of the wards is completed.

The precincts within the ward are twelve; viz. Dolphin, Mincing-lane, Salutation, Rood, Dice-quay, Ralph's-quay, Bear-quay, Petty Wales, Rose, Seething-lane, Mark-lane, and Angel precincts. It has an alderman, twelve common-councilmen, twelve constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

Thames-street is a place of considerable trade, and inhabited by great dealers, as well wholesale as retail. Though this street is broad, yet, on account of the Custom-house, and the several quays and wharfs on the south-side of it, the inhabitants and passengers are greatly annoyed by the number of carts continually passing to and fro.

At the west end of Thames-street, on the north side, is Idol-lane, between which and St. Dunstan's-hill, stands the beautiful church of St. Dunstan in the East. This church is dedicated to St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury; and the addition of the East, is given to distinguish it from St. Dunstan in Fleet-street.

It suffered greatly by the fire of London, in 1666; the body of the church was repaired in a short time, though the steeple was not erected till about 1678. It is built in the style, called modern Gothic, eighty-seven feet in length, sixty-three in breadth, and thirty-three in height, to the roof: the steeple, which is constructed in the same style as the body of the church, is one hundred and twenty-five feet high. The tower is light, supported by out-works at the angles, and divided into three stages, terminating at the corners by four handsome pinnacles, in the midst of which rises the spire, on the crowns of four pointed arches; a bold attempt in architecture, and one proof, among many, of the great geometrical skill of Sir Christopher Wren, who planned and built this elegant tower.

The patronage of this rectory was anciently in the prior and canons of Canterbury, who, in the year 1365, granted the same to Simon Islip, their archbishop, and his successors, in whom it still remains.

It is one of the thirteen peculiars in this city, belonging to the archi-episcopal see of Canterbury.

On the north side of this church is the Coal-meters' office, in which are entered all ships that arrive in the port of London with coals. There are fifteen principal meters belonging to this office, who appoint a sufficient number of persons to measure the coals, to prevent impositions, which would otherwise happen, both in respect of the duty, and the measure to buyers.

These principal meters have each four deputies, or labouring meters, who must be approved by the lord mayor and aldermen, as upon them the care of weighing and measuring coals principally depends; their business being to attend each ship, to top the vats, and to return an account of the coals measured to the coal office, in order to ascertain and collect the duties; for which they receive one penny per chaldron for all coals measured, and two pence per ton for all that are weighed. Both the principal and under meters take an oath, of their admission into office, to give just measure, without partiality or favour; to buy no coals, except for their own use, nor to sell any, while in that office; and not to take more for their trouble than was anciently allowed.

Farther to the east, is Harp-lane, on the east side of which is Baker's-hall; a plain neat edifice, on the site of the dwelling-house of John Chichley, Esq. formerly chamberlain of London. The room called the hall, is beautiful, and pretty large, adorned with a fine wainscot screen, having four columns and two pilasters, with entablatures of the Corinthian order. At the opposite end are pictures of St. Clement, the patron of this company, and of Justice, between which are their arms, very large, and finely painted.

Near the south east angle of Thames-street, fronting the river, stands the Custom-house. This is a commodious building, erected for the receipt of his majesty's customs on goods imported and exported.

In ancient times, the business of the Custom-house was transacted in a more irregular manner at Billingsgate; but, in the year 1559, an act being passed, that goods should be no where landed, but in such places as were appointed by the commissioners of the revenue, this was the spot fixed upon for the entries in the port of London, and here a custom-house was ordered to be erected. It was, however, destroyed by the fire of London, in 1666, and was rebuilt, with additions, two years after, by King Charles II. in a much more magnificent and commodious manner, at the expense of ten thousand pounds; but that being also destroyed in the same manner, in 1718, the present structure was erected in its stead.

This edifice is built with brick and stone, and is calculated to stand for ages. It has underneath, and on each side, large warehouses for the reception of goods on the public account, and that side of the Thames, for a great extent, is filled with wharfs, quays, and cranes, for landing them. It is one hundred and eighty-nine feet in length; the centre is twenty-seven feet deep, and the wings considerably more. The centre stands back from the river; the wings approach much nearer to it, and the building is judiciously and handsomely decorated: under the wings is a colonade, of the Tuscan order, and the upper story is ornamented with Ionic columns and pediments. It consists of two floors, in the uppermost of which is a spacious room, fifteen feet high that runs almost the whole length of the building: this room is called the Long Room, and here sit the commissioners of the customs, with their officers and clerks. The inner part is well disposed, and sufficiently enlightened; and the entrances are so well contrived, as to answer all the purposes of convenience for the transaction of such extensive business.

The government of the Custom-house is under the care of nine commissioners, who are intrusted with the whole management of all his majesty's customs in all the ports of England; and also the oversight of all the officers belonging to them. Each of these commissioners has a salary of one thousand pounds per annum, and both they, and several of the principal officers under them, hold their places by patent from the king. The other officers are appointed by warrant from the lords of the treasury.

Opposite the Custom-house quay is Water-lane, which leads up a winding hill to Tower-street. In this lane stood the Trinity-house; but the business of the company has lately been transferred to a new building, on the north side of Tower-hill, which will be noticed in the survey of the Tower liberties.

On the north side of Tower-street is Mincing-lane, anciently called Mincheon-lane, which is handsomely built, and well inhabited; on the east side of which, near the north end, stands Clothworkers'-hall, a neat brick building, with fluted columns of the same, having Corinthian capitals of stone. The hall is a lofty room, adorned with wainscot to the cieling, which is of curious fret-work. The screen at the south end is of oak, with four pilasters, their entablatures and compass pediment of the Corinthian order, enriched with the arms of the company and palm branches. The west end is adorned with the figures of King James and King Charles I. richly carved, as large as life, in their robes, with regalia, all gilt and highly finished. At this end of the hall

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is a spacious window of stained glass, on which are the king's arms, as also those of Sir John Robinson, Bart. his majesty's lieutenant of the Tower of London, lord mayor of the city in the year 1663, and president of the artillery company.

Mark-lane is next to Mincing-lane; and was anciently called Mart-lane, from a mart or free market kept there. It is well built, and chiefly inhabited by merchants of opulence. On the east side of it, near Tower-street, stands the Corn Exchange. This building, which is very neat, is adapted for transacting business in the corn and meal trade. Next the street is an ascent of three steps to a range of eight lofty Doric columns, those at the corners being coupled; between them are iron rails, and three iron gates. These columns, and two others in the inside, support a plain building two stories high, containing two coffee houses, to which there are ascents by two flights of stone steps, underneath the edifice. Within the iron gates is a small square, paved with broad stones. This is surrounded by a colonade, composed of six columns on each side, and four at the ends. Above the entablature is a handsome balustrade, surrounding the whole square, with an elegant vase placed over each column. Round the colonade is a broad space covered in, with windows in the roof, for the use of the cornfactors, who have each a desk, on which the samples of corn to be sold are shown. The market days are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

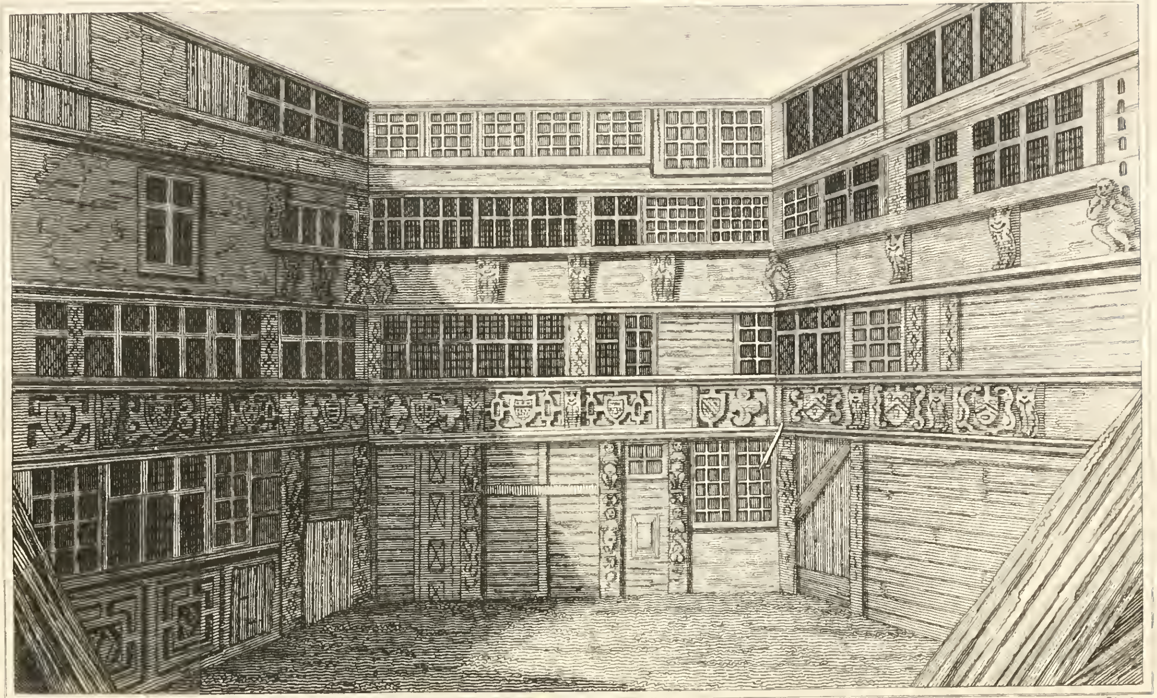
Seething-lane also leads out of Tower-street, to Hart-street and Crutched Friars. At the south east corner of this lane stands the parish church of Allhallows Barking. The name of this church is derived from its dedication to all the Saints, and from having, in ancient time, been a vicarage in the gift of the Abbess and convent of Barking, in Essex: but after their dissolution, the advowson of it was given by King Henry VIII. to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in whose successors it still remains. The antiquity of the church appears from a chapel having been founded in it by King Richard I.

This is one of the few churches that escaped the fire in 1666; it is of considerable extent, being one hundred and eighty feet long, sixty-seven broad, and thirty-five high. The steeple is a plain tower, with a well proportioned turret, the altitude of which, altogether, is about eighty feet. Round the church is a battlement, and the body of it is well enlightened by two rows of Gothic windows.

At the north-west corner of Seething-lane is Hart-street, in which is situated the parish church called St. Olave, Hart-street; so denominated from its dedication to Olave, or Olaus, King of Normandy, who took part with the English against the Danes in defence of the Christian religion; for which, and the punishment he suffered on account of this religion, he had the honour of being canonized.

This church also escaped the fire of London, since which time it has had several repairs and additions, particularly a new portico, which is formed of Corinthian pilasters, with an arched pediment. The church is built of brick and stone, and the body of it forms an exact square of fifty-four feet in length and breadth; the height of the roof is thirty feet, and that of the steeple sixty. The windows are large and Gothic, and every thing exceeding plain, except the portico. The tower consists of a single story above the roof, and is also very plain; but it is crowned with a well proportioned turret.

In Hart-street, four doors from Mark-lane, up a gate-way, is the remains of the residence of the celebrated Whittington. In the old leases, it is described by the name of Whittington's Palace; and the



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Whittington's House, Hart Street, Crutched Friars.

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the appearance of it, especially externally, leaves no doubt of the fact. It forms three sides of a square; but the original appearance of the lower part of it is much altered. Under the windows of the first story, are the arms of the twelve companies of London, carved in basso relievo; the one on the right is, however, concealed by a cistern. The principal room has the remains of grandeur: it is twenty-five feet long, fifteen feet broad, and ten feet high; the cieling is elegantly carved in fancied compartments; the wainscot, which is also carved, is carried up to the height of six feet; above it is a continuation of Saxon arches, in basso relievo; between each arch is a human figure. This building escaped the inquiring eye of Stow; neither is it mentioned by Maitland.

CHAP. V.

Of Aldgate ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal street.—Aldgate High-street.—Priory of the Holy Trinity.--Parish of St. James Duke's Place—St. Michael's Chapel.—Increased height of the Ground in this neighbourhood.—St. Andrew Undershaft.—Stow's Monument.—St. Mary Axe.—Ironmonger's Hall.—St. Catharine Coleman.—-Blanch-apelton.—-London-street.—Fenchurch Buildings.—Northumberland-alley.—St. Catharine Cree.--Crutched Friars.—East India Warehouse.

THE second ward within the walls on the east side of the city is Aldgate ward, which takes its name from the gate. It is bounded on the north and east by Portsoken ward; on the south by Tower-street ward, and on the west by Langbourn, Lime-street, and Bishopsgate wards. It is divided into seven precincts; and is governed by an alderman, six common-council-men, twenty inquest-men, and a beadle; besides the officers belonging to St. James's, Duke's Place.

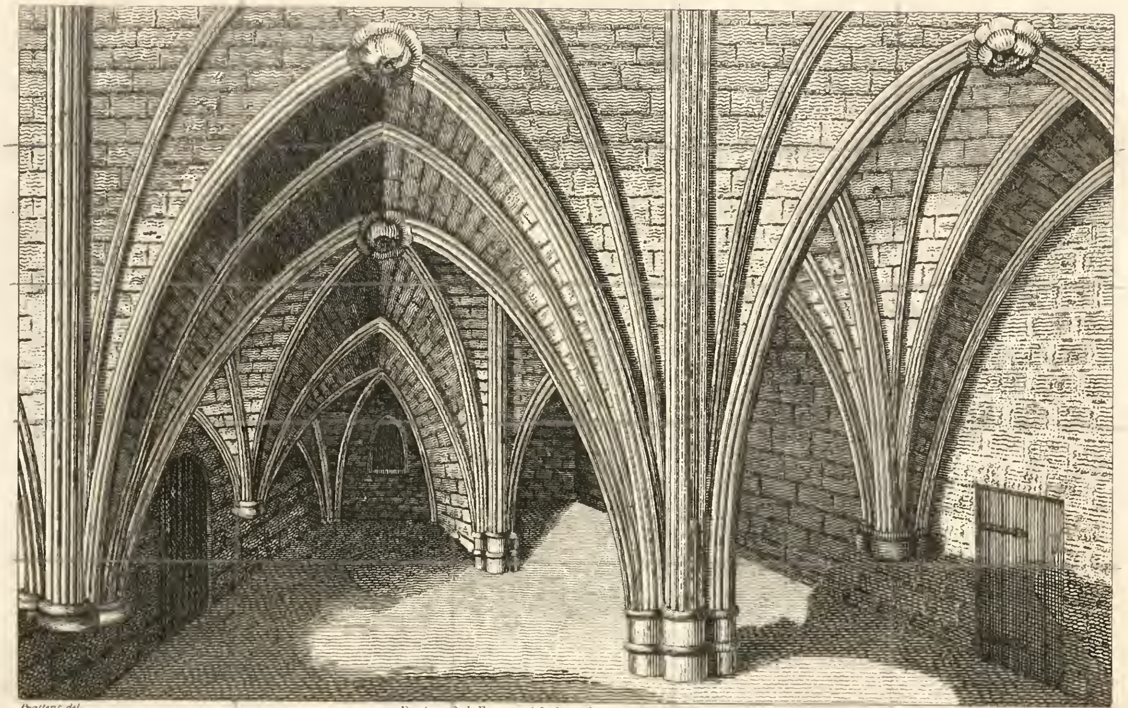
The principal streets in this ward are, Aldgate High-street; Leadenhall-street, as far as Lime-street; Fenchurch-street, as far as Fishmonger's-alley inclusive; Jewry-street, and Crutched Friars, as far as Seething-lane; Shoemaker-row; Bevis Marks to Camomile-street; St. Mary Axe; and Lime-street to Cullum-street. The east sides of St. Mary Axe and Lime-street, and the north corner of Mark-lane, limit the extent of the ward west-ward; and it reaches to Tower-hill on the south.

Aldgate High-street begins where Aldgate formerly stood, and reaches west-ward as far as the stone pump at the junction of Leadenhall-street and Fenchurch-street; from its communication with Whitechapel, it is a great thoroughfare.

To the north of this street formerly stood the priory of Holy Trinity, founded by Queen Maud, wife to King Henry I. in the year 1108, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin, with great endowments; among which the said king granted the port of Aldgate, and the soke thereunto belonging, &c. And in order to establish this foundation, the four parishes of St. Mary Magdalen, St. Michael, St. Catharine, and the Blessed Trinity, were united in the one parish of the priory of the Holy Trinity, called Christchurch: the prior of which was always an alderman of London, and of the ward of Portsoken; who sometimes officiated in person, and sometimes appointed a temporal deputy. The priory was built on a piece of ground upwards of three hundred feet long, in the parish of St. Catharine, towards Aldgate, near the parochial chapel of St. Michael. This priory was said to have been the richest in England, and was, probably for that reason, selected to be the first that was dissolved by Henry VIII. in the year 1531; who gave it to Sir Thomas Audley, speaker of the parliament, for his services in opposition to Cardinal Wolsey. Sir Thomas demolished the priory, and converted it into a large mansion, where he resided when he was lord chancellor. The only daughter of Sir Thomas being married to the Duke of Norfolk, this estate descended to the duke, and was from that time known by the name of the Duke's place, which it has retained to this day. But the Duke of Norfolk losing his head on Tower-hill, this mansion descended to Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, eldest son to the said duke, by Audley's daughter; who, by indenture of bargain and sale, dated 21 July, 34 Eliz. sold the same to the mayor, commonalty, and citizens of London, to have and to hold, to them and their successors.

Some remains of this edifice may still be traced, enveloped in more modern buildings; from which it appears that the architecture was of the round arch, or what is called the Saxon style. One of the entrances was brought to view in 1800, by an accidental fire, but is again hidden.

A short time before the priory of Holy Trinity was dissolved, the inhabitants within its boundaries, who had been deprived of their parish churches, to make way for that religious foundation, petitioned and obtained leave, under certain conditions and restrictions, to build a chapel in the church-yard of the said priory, for their own convenience, which, escaping the fate of the religious houses at the dissolution of the priory, became the only place, after the conventual church was pulled down, for the inhabitants within that district to repair to for divine service. This, however, creating some dislike among the inhabitants of Duke's-place, they were desirous of raising a proper parish church for themselves, on the ground within their own precinct: to effect which, they applied to the Archbishop of Canterbury for his assistance; who having obtained the king's warrant under the broad seal, for proceeding in their pious intention, prevailed with the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to build them a church with the stones of the conventual church, which then remained on the premises. This was accordingly done; and the church was consecrated and dedicated to St. James, on the second of January, 1622. It is now known by the name of St James, Duke's place; and although the parish is in the ward of Aldgate, yet it is a precinct within itself, under a minister, two constables, two head boroughs, and fifteen jury-men. This liberty formerly enjoyed great privileges, in which they appear to have been more protected by the power of the Norfolk family than by right: since the lord mayor is entitled to hold a court leet and baron, and the city officers can arrest for debt, and execute warrants within it; yet artificers and traders



Prattent del. Designed & Engraved for Lamberts Hiſtory of London Owen sc.

Remains of St. Michaels Chapel, Aldgate.

Published by T. Hughes, Stationers Court July 5.1805.

open shops and exercise their arts here although not freemen of the city. The Jews settled here, principally, in the time of Oliver Cromwell. The church, having escaped the fire, in 1666, still retains its original form. The body, which was rebuilt in 1727, is well enlightened; and the tower, which is composed of four stages, is terminated by a very singular kind of turret, in the form of a canopy. It is a curacy, the patronage of which being in the lord mayor and commonalty of London, the parish claims a right of exemption from the Bishop of London's jurisdiction, in matters ecclesiastical.

A little to the north of St. James's church, in Duke's-place, is a Jews' synagogue, which has been lately so enlarged as almost to join the church.

Besides this, there are three other synagogues in this ward; one near the north end of Bury-street, by London-wall; another at the end of Church-row, and a third, in a building which was formerly Bricklayer's-hall, situated behind the houses that are nearly opposite to St. Catharine Cree-church.

Beneath the house, at the south-east corner of Leadenhall-street, are the remains of the parochial chapel of St. Michael, mentioned above; which serve to show, to what a prodigious height this part of the city has been raised; for the shafts of the pillars are buried at least sixteen feet in the ground, which, with ten feet for the present internal altitude, warrant the conclusion, that the street pavement is, at this time, twenty-six feet higher than the level of this spot, when the chapel was founded. The two aisles remain, the pillars and arches of which are in fine preservation, and the keys of the arches are sculptured with well executed masks; the walls are of square pieces of chalk, in the manner of Rochester castle, and exhibit as skilful masonry as any building in this age of refinement. The length of the chapel, from north to south, contrary to our mode of building sacred edifices, is forty-eight feet, and, from east to west, its breadth is sixteen feet.

Stow records another proof of the increased height of this neighbourhood. He says, * "Betwixt this, Belzeter's (Billiter) lane, and Lime-street, was (of later time), a frame of three fair houses, set up in the year 1590, in place where before was a large garden plot, inclosed, from the high-street, with a brick wall; which wall being taken down, and the ground digged deep for cellarage, there was found, right under the said brick wall, another wall of stone, with a gate, arched of stone, and gates of timber, to be closed in the midst, towards the street, the timber of the gates was consumed, but the hinges of yron still remained on their staples, on both the sides. Moreover, in that wall were square windows, with bars of yron, on either side the gate; this wall was, underground, about two fathoms deepe, as I then esteemed it, and seemeth to bee the ruins of some house burned in the raigne of King Stephen, when the fire began in the house of one Alewarde, near London-stone, and consumed east to Aldgate; whereby it appeareth how greatly the ground of this citie hath been in that place raysed."

On the north side of Leadenhall-street, and at the south east corner of St. Mary Axe, stands the parish church of St. Andrew, the Apostle, better known by the name of St. Andrew Undershaft. It obtained the latter appellation from a high May-pole, or shaft, which was set up, annually, on May-day, in the middle of the street, opposite the south door of the church, and was higher than the church-steeple. After the insurrection of the apprentices, on Evil May-day, in the year 1517, the shaft was hung upon a range of hooks, under the pent-houses of a long

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* Survaie, p. 140.

row of neighbouring buildings, where it remained until the third of Edward VI. when a fanatic preacher, called Sir Stephen, curate of St. Catharine, Cree-church, preaching at St. Paul's-cross, declaimed against it, as being made an idol, by naming the church *under that shaft*; which so inflamed his equally fanatic auditory, that, in the afternoon of the same day, it was, with great labour, lowered from the hooks, and sawed in pieces; each man taking for his share, the portion which had lain over his door.

The church was originally founded in 1362; but it had become so ruinous, that the present one was begun to be built about the year 1502, and, for the most part, finished, at the charge of William Fitz-Williams, who was sheriff in 1507; the north side, however, was erected by Stephen Jenyns, lord mayor, in 1508; whose arms are carved above all the pillars on that side. It was not completed until 1532. This church escaped the flames, in 1666. It is a plain Gothic structure, with a square tower, terminated by battlements, with pinnacles at the corners; within which rises a turret, that contains six bells. The length of the church is ninety-six feet; its breadth fifty-four, and its height, to the roof, forty-two. The altitude of the square tower is seventy-four feet, and that of the turret seventeen feet. It is a rectory, in the patronage of the Bishop of London. The window over the altar, contains the portraits of Edward VI. Elizabeth, James I. and Charles I. and II. and is a fine specimen of the art of painting on glass, in the 17th century.

In this church was interred the faithful and able historiographer of the city, John Stow. He died on the 5th of April, 1605, and, to the shame of his time, in great poverty. His monument is still in being: he is represented sitting with a table before him, on which is an open book, with many books lying beside him. The figure has a reverend aspect, with a short white beard, the crown of the head bald, and short hair above the ears; it is of terra-cotta, or burnt earth, painted; a common practice in those days, though now considered a new invention.

The name of a church, which stood formerly on the north side of Leadenhall-street, is still preserved in that of the street called St. Mary Axe. This church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and received the appellation of "at the Axe," from a sign which hung opposite the east end of it. But this parish being, about the year 1565, united to that of St. Andrew Undershaft, the church of St. Mary was let as a warehouse, and for mechanical purposes, till, at length, it became so ruinous, that it was entirely taken down.

On the north side of Fenchurch-street, is a very noble hall, erected in the year 1748, by the Ironmongers, for transacting their affairs as a body corporate. This edifice is entirely fronted with stone, and the whole lower story is wrought in rustic. The centre part of the building projects a little; and in this are a large arched entrance, and two windows, with two others on each side. Over this rustic story rises the superstructure, which has a light rustic at the corners, to keep up a correspondence with the rest of the building: the part which projects, is ornamented with four Ionic pilasters, coupled, but with a large intercolumniation. In the middle is a very noble Venetian window, and over it a circular one. In each space, between the pilasters, is a smaller window, with an angular pediment; and over these are also circular ones; but the sides have arched windows, with square ones over them. The central part is crowned with a pediment, supported by these pilasters, and in its plane are carved the arms of the company, with handsome decorations in relievo. The rest of the building is terminated by a balustrade crowned with vases.

On the opposite side of Fenchurch-street, in Church-row, formerly Magpye-alley, stands the parish church of St. Catharine Coleman, which is so denominated from its dedication to St. Catharine, a virgin of Alexandria, celebrated for her great knowledge in philosophy, and as being a martyr for the Christian faith. It received the addition of Coleman, from a great yard or garden, called, at that time, Coleman-haw, in the parish of the Trinity, afterwards Christ-church. It is a rectory of ancient foundation, even so far back as the year 1346. The old church was substantially repaired, and a south aisle added, in 1489, by Sir William White, Lord Mayor of London. It escaped the fire of London, in 1666; but, being much buried by the raising of the street, in 1734, it was pulled down, and the present church was erected at the expense of the parish, under the sanction of an act of parliament, 12 Geo. II. whereby, and by another act passed for the same purpose, the parishioners were enabled to raise money, by annuities, at the rate of eight pounds per cent. per annum, and to rate the inhabitants, to pay the said annuities.

This church was originally in the patronage of the Dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand, London, and so continued till that religious house, with its appurtenances, was annexed to the abbey of Westminster; after which it fell to the crown, and the advowson was given, by Queen Mary, on the 3d of March, in the first year of her reign, to the Bishop of London, and his successors in that see, for ever. The present church has a lofty body, well lighted with two rows of windows. The steeple is a plain tower, crowned with battlements; and the floor is raised so much above the surface of the street, that there is an ascent of several steps into the church, from the church-yard; by which means, there is little reason to expect this edifice will ever fall under the like disadvantage with the former.

In this parish was the manor of Blanch-Apleton, now called Blind Chapel-court, at the north-east corner of Mark-lane. In the 3d of Edward IV. all basket-makers, wire-drawers, and other foreigners, were permitted to have shops in the manor of Blanch-Apelton, and no where else, within the city or suburbs.

Between the church and Mark-lane, is a street, called London-street, from being built on the spot where the London-tavern, the first house of that description, in the city, formerly stood.

Opposite this church is a very neat street, called Fenchurch-buildings; to the east of which is Northumberland-alley, so called from the mansion-house of the two earls of Northumberland, in the reign of Henry VI. one of whom lost his life in the battle of St. Alban's; the other in that of Towton. Being afterwards deserted by the Percies, the gardens were made into bowling-alleys, and other parts into dicing houses; but, in Stow's time, " this ancient and only patron of mis-rule," was forsaken by her gamesters, and converted into a number of small cottages, for strangers and others.

At the south-east angle of Cree-church-lane, in Leadenhall-street, stands the church of St. Catharine Cree. This church received its name from being dedicated to St. Catharine, an Egyptian virgin, and is distinguished from other churches of the same name, by the addition of Cree, or Christ, from its situation in the cemetery of the conventual church of the Holy Trinity, which was originally called Christ-church.

King Henry VIII. in his grant of the priory of Holy Trinity to Sir Thomas (afterwards Lord) Audley, gave this church also; the prior and canons of Christ-church having been, originally, and always, patrons thereof. When Lord Audley died, he, by his will, bequeathed it to the master and fellows of Magdalen-college, in Cambridge, and their successors, whom he enjoined to serve the cure for ever; who leased out the impropriation to the parishioners for ninety-nine years; but a dispute arising, between the college and the parish, at the expiration of the said lease, in 1725, about a renewal, a lease was granted to Jerome Knapp, haberdasher of London; and, in order to settle the difference, it was agreed, that one hundred and fifty pounds per ann. should be raised by the parishioners, in lieu of tythes, &c. out of which the officiating curate should be paid fifty pounds per annnm, for the first ten years, besides surplice fees, &c. and, after the expiration of that term, seventy pounds per annum, besides surplice fees; and this agreement was confirmed by act of parliament, in the month of May, 1727.

The present structure was erected in 1630, and the dial post and clock, in 1662. It is built of stone, in a mixed style. It has rounded battlements on the top, and a square tower, with battlements of the same kind. This tower is crowned with a square turret, over which is a dome, and from its summit rises the weathercock. The length of the church is ninety feet; the breadth fifty-one; the altitude of the roof, which is square, supported by pilasters and columns of the Composite order, is thirty-seven feet; and that of the steeple, is seventy-five feet.

At the west end of this church, adjoining to the steeple, stands a pillar of the old church, as it was erected. This pillar, from the base to the chapiter, upon which the arch was turned, being eighteen feet high, and but three to be seen above ground, shows the height to which the floor of the new church has been raised above that of the old.

This church is a curacy; and the parishioners have the privilege of choosing their own minister, who must be licensed by the Bishop of London.

Crutched-friars is so called from a house of the Crouched or Crossed Friars *(Fratres Sancti Crucis)*, which stood there, and was founded in the year 1298, by Ralph Hosier and William Sabernes, who became friars in it. Originally, they carried in their hands an iron cross, which they afterwards changed into one of silver. On their garments, they wore a cross of red cloth. A prior of this house, not so observant as he ought to have been of the rules of continence prescribed by the order, was caught, on a Friday, a day of more than ordinary mortification and devotion, in the apartment of a lewd woman, by some of the visitors appointed by the Vicar-general, Cromwell. The scandalized visitors pocketed a bribe of thirty pounds, given them by the detected prior, and reported the transaction to their employer. This hastened the dissolution of the house, which was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyatt, who built a handsome mansion on the site. The friars' hall was converted into a glass-house, the first manufacture of that article in England; which, on the 4th of September, 1575, was destroyed by fire. On the site of this religious house, now stands a most magnificent warehouse for teas, belonging to the East India company. It is a regular oblong square, of two hundred and fifty feet, by a hundred and sixty; inclosing a court of a hundred and fifty feet, by sixty, entered by an arched gateway.

CHAP. VI.

Of Lime-street Ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal Places.—Leadenhall.—East India House.

The next is Lime-street ward, so called from the street, which is supposed to have received this name from making or selling lime there. It is bounded on the east and north by Aldgate ward, on the west by Bishopsgate ward, and on the south by Langbourn ward. It is divided into four precincts, and is under the government of an alderman, four common-council-men, four constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle. Though this ward runs through several parishes, there is not any church in it, neither is there a whole street throughout it. The only two buildings in it deserving of notice, are Leadenhall and the East India House.

Leadenhall is situated on the south side, and near the west end of the street of that name. It was originally a manor-house, belonging to Sir Hugh Neville, in the year 1309; and was purchased by the munificent Whittington in 1408, who afterwards presented it to the city. In 1419, Sir Simon Eyre erected a public granary here, built with stone, in its present form. He also built a chapel within the square, which he intended to apply to the uses of a foundation for a warden, six secular priests, six clerks, and two choristers; and also for three schoolmasters: and he left three thousand marks to the Drapers' Company to fulfil his intent, which was never executed; but, in 1466, there was a fraternity of sixty priests here, founded by William Rouse, and two others, some of whom celebrated divine service to the market people daily.

This house was used for many other purposes: anciently it was the city arsenal, and, from its strength, it was considered as the chief fortress within the city, in case of popular tumults. Stow says, that in his youth, the common beam for weighing wool and other wares, was in a part of the north quadrant, on the east side of the north gate; on the west side of the gate were scales to weigh meal. The other three sides were reserved, for the most part, to the making and resting of the pageants showed at Midsummer, in the watch. The remnant of the sides and quadrants were employed for the stowage of wool-sacks, but not closed up. The lofts above were partly used by painters in working for the decking of pageants and other devices; and the residue was let to merchants and to woolwinders and packers, to wind and pack their wool therein.

In its present state it is used as a market for provisions and various other articles, and is supposed to be the most extensive in Europe. It consists of three courts or yards, the first of which is that at the north east corner of Gracechurch, opening into Leadenhall-street. It contains a great number of stalls or standings for butchers; and, as there is but little meat sold here, except beef, it is distinguished by the name of the Beef-market. On Tuesdays this yard is a market for leather; on Thursdays the waggons from Colchester and other parts come with baize, &c. and also the fellmongers with their wool; on Fridays it is a market for raw hides; and on Saturdays, for beef.

The second market-yard is called the Green-yard, as being once a green plot of ground; afterwards it was the city's store-yard for materials for building and the like, but now a market for veal, mutton, lamb, &c. This yard hath in it a hundred and forty stalls, all covered over, and of the bigness of those in the Beef-market. In the middle of this Green-yard-market, is a row of shops, with rooms over them for Fishmongers; and also on the south side and west end are houses and shops for fishmongers. Towards the east end of this yard is erected a market-house, standing upon columns, with vaults underneath, and rooms above, with a bell-tower, and a clock, and under it are butchers' stalls. The tenements round about this yard, are, for the most part, inhabited by cooks, victuallers, and such like; and in the passages, leading out of the streets into this market, are fishmongers, poulterers, cheesemongers, and such like traders.

The third market, belonging to Leadenhall, is called the Herb-market, because only herbs, roots, fruit, &c. are sold there. The west, east, and north sides, have walks round them, covered over for shelter, and standing upon columns; in which walks there are twenty-eight stalls for gardeners, with cellars under them.

Being rebuilt in the year 1730, it is now called, New Market, or Nashe's Rents, and hath shops in it, chiefly for butchers, and a new passage into Lime-street. There is, also, in this yard, one range of stalls, covered over, for such as sell tripe, neats'-feet, sheeps'-trotters, &c. And, on the south-side, the tenements are taken up by victuallers, poulterers, cheesemongers, butchers, and such like. Beyond this, are, likewise, some shops, built in the year 1730, in that part called, the Old Bacon-market, which are chiefly occupied by poulterers, and such as deal in bacon.

On the same side of the street, a little more to the east, stands the East India-house, which was greatly enlarged, and new fronted, in the year 1799: it occupies the site of the house and gardens, formerly belonging to the Earls of Craven, of whom the company rented it, prior to 1726, when the old East India-house was built. The principal entrance, from Leadenhall-street, is through a portico, consisting of six fluted columns, of the Ionic order, supporting a frieze, decorated with antique ornaments, surmounted by a pediment, in the tympanum of which is an elegant group of emblematical figures. The principal figure in this group represents his majesty, leaning on his sword, which is in his left hand, and extending the shield of protection, with his right arm, over Britannia, who is embracing Liberty. On one side, Mercury, attended by Navigation, and followed by tritons and sea-horses, emblematical of Commerce, introduces Asia to Britannia, at whose feet she pours out her rich productions. On the other side is Order, accompanied by Religion and Justice. Behind these appears the city barge, and other emblems of London, near which are Integrity and Industry. The western angle is filled by the Thames, and the eastern by the Ganges; indicative of their respective positions. On the apex of this pediment is a pedestal, on which is Britannia, seated on her lion, and holding, in her left hand, a spear, with a cap of liberty upon it. Above one extremity of the portico is Europe, seated on a horse, and above the other, Asia, on a camel.

Under this portico is the door of the hall, from which a long passage leads to a court, surrounded by offices for different purposes. In it are two of Tippoo's long tyger guns, the muzzles of which are moulded to represent the extended jaws of that ferocious animal: the workmanship of these pieces is worthy of admiration.

The court room is on the right of the entrance; it is very elegantly fitted up, and well lighted by two rows of windows, on the left hand side. The chimney-piece is of fine white marble, the cornice of which is supported by two caryatides of statuary marble, on pilasters of veined marble. Above this is an emblematical design, in fine white marble, representing Britannia seated on a globe, under a rock, by the sea side, with a trident in her left hand, and her right arm on a shield, bearing the union cross. Behind her are two boys; one leaning on a cornucopia, the other playing with its contents. Before her are three female figures: the first, representing India, offers her a casket of jewels, from which a string of diamonds are hanging down. Next her is Asia, holding an incense pot in one hand, and the bridle of a camel in the other. The third figure represents Africa, decorated with the spoils of an elephant, and one hand resting on the head of a lion. On the shore is the god of the Thames, holding a rudder in his right hand, and a cornucopia in his left. Above all are the companys' arms, tastefully decorated. In this room are elegant paintings of Fort St. George, Bombay, Fort William, Tellicherry, the Cape of Good Hope, and St. Helena. There are many other good paintings in the different rooms, particularly, two portraits of Marquis Cornwallis and Governor Hastings, in the room for the committee of correspondence, both bequeathed to the company by William Larkin, Esq. In the upper story of the building is a room fitted up as a library, in which a collection of books, in all the oriental languages, is forming. It is already rich in specimens of Hindostanee, Persian, and Chinese manuscripts and printed works, and contains a complete set of the materials for printing a book in the Chinese language; consisting not only of the blocks with which each page is printed, but also of the tools for cutting them; the ink, press, &c. Here is also a museum of natural curiosities, and several specimens of antiquities, particularly the Roman pavement, lately found before the house in Leadenhall-street.

CHAP. VII.

Of Bishopsgate Ward.—Bounds.—-Divisions.—Precincts. —Principal Streets.—Gracechurch-street.—Leadenhall Herb-market—Bishopsgate-street.—Old Houses.—London--tavern.—Antiquities.—-Crosby-square.—Remains of Richard IIId's House.—-Great St. Helen's.—Parish Church of St. Helen.—-Bancroft's Monument.—Judd's Alms-houses.—Little St. Helens—Leather-sellers' Hall. Old Priory.—Roman Pavement.—Church of St. Ethelburgh.—Marine Society.—St. Botolph without Bishopsgate.—Old Bethlem.—London Workhouse.--Devonshire-square.—Old Artillery-ground.—Hospital of St. Mary Spital.—Spital Sermons.—New Broad-street.

The ward of Bishopsgate takes its name from the gate, which stood almost in the centre of it, between the ends of Camomile-street and Wormwood-street. It is bounded on the east by Aldgate-ward, Portsoken-ward, and part of the Tower liberty; on the south, by Langbourn-ward; on the west, by Broad-street-ward, and on the north, by Shoreditch. It extends, from the bars, at the north end, near Spital-square, on both sides of the way, as far as the pump, at the corner of St. Martin Outwich, and then, winding by the west corner of Leadenhall, down Gracechurch-street, as far as Fenchurch-street and Lombard-street.

This ward consists of two parts; viz. Bishopsgate within, and Bichopsgate without, and is divided into nine precincts; five in the former, and four in the latter part. It is governed by one alderman, fourteen common-council-men, including two deputies, seven constables, thirteen inquest-men, and two beadles.

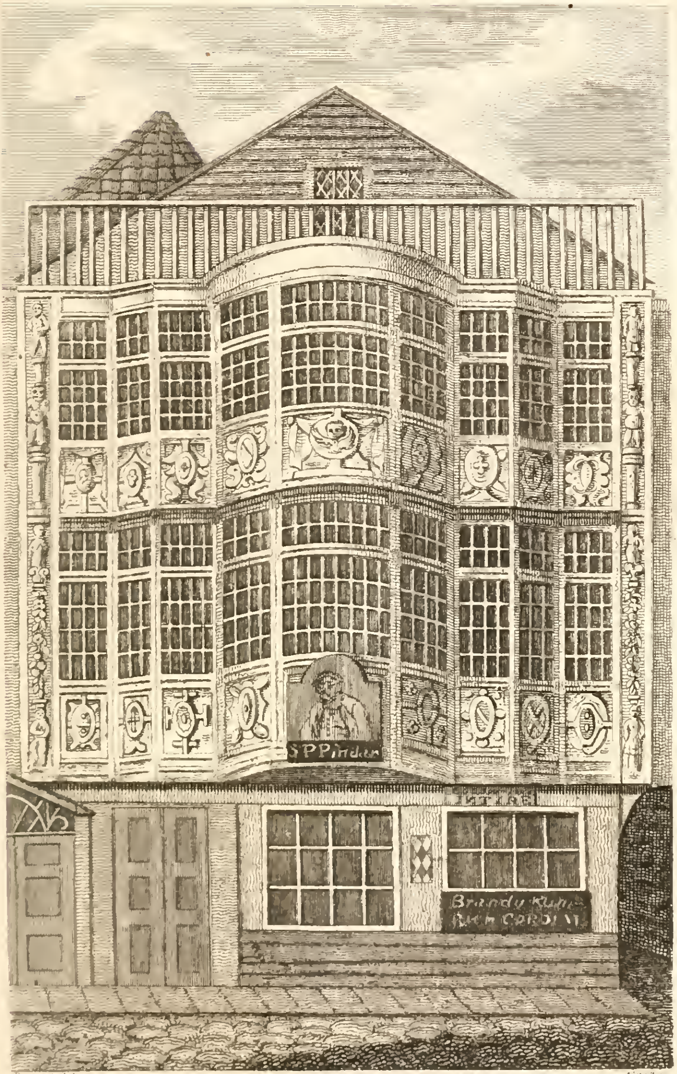
The principal streets and places in this ward are, Bishopsgate-street, Gracechurch-street, Crosby-square, Great and Little St. Helens, Old Bethlem, Devonshire-square, and New Broad-street.

Grace, or Grass-church-street, so called from a grass-market, formerly held there, is a spacious well-built street, inhabited, principally, by respectable shopkeepers. It begins at Eastcheap, and ends at the cross-way formed by it, Leadenhall-street, Bishopsgate-street, and Cornhill; but the part of it between Lombard-street and Eastcheap, is not in this ward.

Leadenhall Herb-market, the principal entrance to which is from Gracechurch-street, is in this ward. It is large, and well supplied with vegetables of all kinds.

Bishopsgate-street is very long and spacious, and consists, principally, of handsome buildings; but as it all escaped the fire in 1666, except the south end, many of the houses still remain specimens of the ancient architecture of London; particularly a public house, on the west side, at the corner of Half-moon-alley, known by the sign of Sir Paul Pyndar. The White-hart Tavern, another building, equally celebrated for its antiquity, stood just without the gate; the date, in front of it, is 1480; but all remains of the old edifice had disappeared, when Pennant wrote his Account of London.

The south end of this street was again burned in the year 1765, and an elegant row of buildings erected on the spot; among which is the London-tavern, where large meetings of merchants and others are frequently held, as well for business as for purposes of pure conviviality. In clearing the rubbish, to make way for these buildings, the remains of an ancient church or chapel were discovered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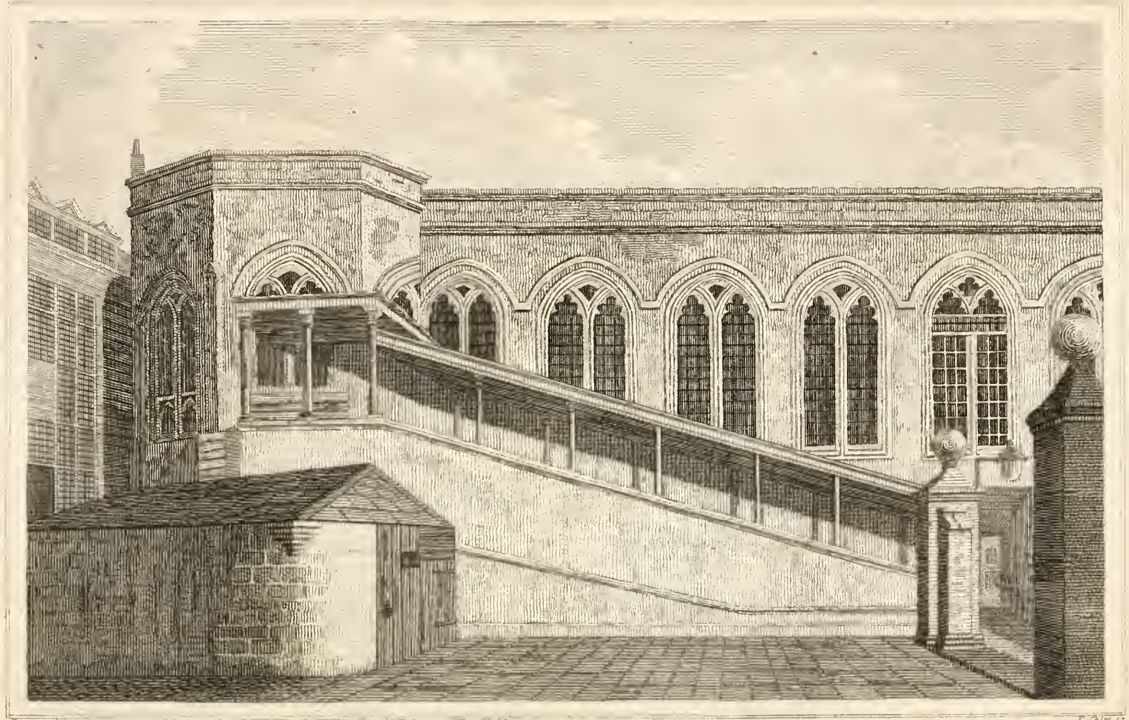
House once S^{r}. Paul. Pindars, Bishopsgate Street

Published by T. Hughes Stationers Court Aug. 1 1805



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Crosby House. Bishopsgate Street.

Publish'd by T. Hughes Stationers Court. Aug. 17 1805 vered, which had long served for the uses of cellaring to the four houses that covered this relic of antiquity; but when, or by whom, this old church was founded, cannot be traced. The inside of it measured forty feet in length, and twenty-six in breadth. The roof was only ten feet nine inches from the floor, occasioned by the raising of the ground in this part of the city.

It was conjectured, that the premises here mentioned were the remains of a church, which once stood at the top of, or above, Cornhill, dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle; from which the other church, at the corner of St. Mary Axe, dedicated to the same saint, was distinguished by the addition of Undershaft.

About twelve feet farther to the north, and under the house, where the fire was supposed to have begun, there was another stone building, thirty feet long, fourteen feet broad, and eight feet high, with a door on the north side, a window at the east end, and the appearance of another at the west end. This building was covered with a semicircular arch, made of small pieces of chalk, in the form of bricks, and rubbed with stone, resembling the arches of a bridge: but this structure did not appear to have any connection with the first; nor does any ancient history give us the least account thereof, nor of any religious or other remarkable foundation in this neighbourhood, that could be so strangely buried.

On the east side of Bishopsgate-street is Crosby-square, so called from Sir John Crosby, Knt. who built a large house here, in 1466. This house was the city residence of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, while the measures, which, eventually, secured him the crown, were concerting. Part of this house still remains, on the north side of the entrance into the square, which is chiefly built on the garden-ground that belonged to the house. The part, improperly called Richard IIId.'s chapel, is still very entire. It is a beautiful Gothic building, with a bow window at one end; the roof, which is of timber, elegantly carved, is very worthy of admiration. This building is now the residence of a packer.

At a short distance north of this square, in a handsome open place, called, from the church, Great St. Helen's, stands the parish church of St. Helen, so denominated from its dedication to St. Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. The patronage of it appears to have been anciently in lay hands; for, in the reign of Henry II. one Ranulph, with his son Robert, granted it to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, by whom it was, some time after, granted to William Fitzwilliam, who, in 1212, founded the priory of St. Helen, and conferred the advowson of the church on the prioress and nuns, in whom it continued till the suppression of their convent, in 1539, when it came to the crown. In the year 1551, Edward VI. granted the advowson to Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and his successors; which grant was confirmed by Queen Mary, in 1553: but it appears to have reverted to the crown afterwards; for, in 1568, Queen Elizabeth granted it, by lease, to Cæzar Aldermarie, and Thomas Colcel, in trust for the parishioners, for a term of twenty-one years; which lease being expired, she sold it to Michael and Edward Stanhope, to be held by them, their heirs and assigns, in soccage. It has, however, been since re-granted to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

This church, which escaped the fire of London, in 1666, is a Gothic structure of the lighter kind, consisting of a plain body, with large windows. The length of it is one hundred and eleven feet, its breadth fifty, and its altitude thirty-eight; that of the tower, which was not built till 1669, is sixty-eight feet. It is adorned with rustic work at the corners, and crowned with a turret and dome, wherein are two bells.

In this church are several very curious monuments; particularly that of Francis Bancroft, one of the lord mayor's officers, who having, in a course of years, amassed a very considerable sum of money, by the most mercenary and illegal practices in his office, left the principal part of it in trust to the Drapers' company, to found and maintain an alms-house, for twenty-four alms-men, a chapel, and a school, and to keep this monument, which he erected in his life-time, in good and substantial repair; within which he is emboweled, embalmed, and in a chest, or box, made with a lid, to fall down, with a pair of hinges, without any fastening; and a piece of square glass in the lid, just over his face. It is a very plain monument, almost square, and has a door for the sexton to go in and clear it from dust and cobwebs; but the keys of the iron rails about the monument, and of the vault door, are kept by the clerk of the Drapers' company. The minister has twenty shillings for preaching a sermon, once a year, in commemoration of Mr. Bancroft's charities; on which occasion, the alms-men and scholars attend at church, and are, by the will of the founder, entertained with a good dinner, at some neighbouring public-house. The sexton has forty shillings a year for keeping the monument clear of dust.

On the left hand side of the entrance into Great St. Helen's, are a set of alms-houses, founded by Sir Andrew Judd, Knt. as appears by a tablet in front of the building, though some of the historians of London assert, that he was only the executor of Lady Holles, the relict of Sir William Holles, lord mayor in the year 1531, by whom the money for this foundation was devised. They are for the reception of six poor men or women, and the Skinners' company are trustees of the charity, which has been so much increased by the contributions of other benefactors, that the houses have been rebuilt, and the pensions of the poor inhabitants, which at first was only seven pence per week, increased.

Immediately adjoining to Great St. Helen's, is Little St. Helen's, on the site of the priory mentioned before; the remains of which were to be seen, till very lately, in Leathersellers'-hall, now pulled down, to make way for a handsome range of new buildings, to be called St. Helen's-place. This company purchased the priory of Queen Elizabeth, and, with part of the materials, built the largest and most elegant hall at that time in London. Their business is now carried on in a house at the east end of the place, built by them at the same period, of which the upper panes of the windows, on the first floor, are formed of painted glass, said to have been taken from the priory. This house may be considered as a perfect specimen of the architecture of Queen Elizabeth's reign. All that is now left of the priory, is in the cellars under the two old houses, on the right hand side of St. Helen's-place.

In digging foundations for some houses on the north side of the entrance, from Bishopsgate-street, in 1732, a tesselated Roman pavement was discovered, which, from its north-east direction, under the neighbouring houses, was, probably, another part of that found in Camomile-street, in 1711.

Near the corner of Little St, Helen's, in Bishopsgate-street, stands the church of St. Ethelburga, so called from its dedication to the first christian princess of the Saxon race, the daughter of Ethelbert, King of Kent, who embraced the christian religion, and became the patron of Austin, the English apostle.

The advowson of this church, which is a rectory, was in the prioress and nuns of St. Helen, till the suppression of their convent, in the year 1539; when coming to the crown it was some time after granted by Queen Elizabeth, to the Bishop of London and his successors, who have ever since collated and inducted to the same; and in ecclesiastical matters it is subject to the archdeacon. This church is very ancient, having escaped the fire of London. The body is irregular, and in the Gothic style, with very large windows: and the steeple is a tall spire, supported on a square tower. The length of this church is fifty-four feet, its breadth, twenty-five, and its altitude, thirty-one; and that of the spire is about ninety feet. The earliest account of this church, on record, is in 1366, when Robert Kilwardeby was rector.

Adjoining to this church is a very handsome building, occupied by the Marine Society, who formerly transacted their business in an apartment over the Royal Exchange. This society was begun in 1756, by a voluntary association of Jonas Hanway, Esq. the justices Fielding and Welsh, and several merchants and others, for cloathing and fitting out such orphan, friendless, and destitute boys, as were willing to engage in the service of the navy. This excellent scheme was prosecuted with such zeal, that many thousands have, through its means, been rescued from an abandoned course of life, and rendered serviceable to their king and country. The society was incorporated on the 24th of June, 1772; and, whether we consider it as a prominent feature of well regulated police, or as a nursery for seamen, its advantages will be strikingly evident, and entitle it to the warmest support of the benevolent. In addition to their first plan, the society have a vessel fitted for the reception of 100 boys, which lies between Deptford and Greenwich, and is provided with proper officers to instruct them in nautical and moral duties.

On the west side of the street, beyond the place where the gate stood, is the parish church of St. Botolph, without Bishopsgate. This church, which appears to be of very ancient foundation, received its name from being dedicated to St. Botolph, an English Saxon saint, who died about the year 680: but the first authentic account of it is in 1323, when John de Northampton resigned the rectorship, which then was, and still is, in the gift of the Bishop of London. The old church, which Stow says was upon the very bank of the town ditch, escaped the fire of London; but at length became so ruinous, that it was taken down in 1726, and rebuilt, being finished in 1729.

The present structure is massy and spacious; the body is built with brick, and well enlightened, and the roof hid by a handsome balustrade. The steeple, though heavy, maintains an air of magnificence. In the center of the front is a large, plain, arched window, decorated at a distance with pilasters of the Doric order. Over this window is a festoon, and above that an angular pediment; on each side is a door, crowned with windows, and over these there are others of the port hole kind; above which rises a square tower, crowned with a dome, whose base is circular, and surrounded by a balustrade in the same form; by the side of which, on the corners of the tower, are placed urns with flames. From this part rises a series of coupled Corinthian pillars, supporting other urns like the former, and over them rises the orgive dome, crowned with a very large vase, with flames. The roof within-side is arched, except over the galleries, and two rows of Corinthian columns support both the galleries and arch, which extends over the body of the church, and is neatly adorned with fret work.

At a small distance from the north side of this church is a very narrow place called Alderman's Walk, nearly adjoining to which are a street and several courts, known by the general name of Old Bethlem. On this spot formerly stood a priory, founded in the year 1246, by Simon Fitzmary, sheriff of London, for the support of a community of brothers and sisters, and dedicated to St. Mary of Bethlehem.

This priory, however, undergoing the fate of all other religious houses, was suppressed by King Henry VII. and in the year 1546, the mayor and commonalty of London purchased the said priory from the crown ; and it was by them converted into an hospital for the cure of lunatics, at a certain expense to be paid weekly by the relations or parish of the patient admitted. And at a court of aldermen held the seventh of April, 5 Edward VI. it was ordered, that the inhabitants within the precinct of Bethlehem should be from thenceforth united to the parish of St. Botolph without Bishopsgate.

This priory enclosed all the estate and ground, in length, from Bishopsgate-street, east, to the great ditch in the west, which was called deep ditch, dividing the said lands from Moorfields, and in breadth, to the land of Ralph Downing, viz. Downing's-alley in the north, and to the land of the church of St. Botolph in the south.

The site and lands of this priory, after its dissolution, being disposed of to the citizens, it was immediately let out to divers tenants, and was built upon and divided into streets, alleys, and courts, except a square piece of ground, consisting of about one acre, which is at the north east extremity of the lower Moorfields, commonly known by the name of Broker's-row, where formerly was the place called deep ditch.

In the year 1568, Sir Thomas Rowe, merchant-taylor and Lord Mayor of London, caused this ground to be inclosed with a brick wall, to be a common burial-ground, at a low rate, for such parishes in London, as wanted convenient burial places. He called it the New church-yard near Bethlehem, and established a sermon to be preached there on Whitsunday, annually; which, for many years, was honoured with the presence of the Lord-mayor and aldermen. This, however, has been for a considerable time discontinued, and the burial place shut up.

A little further north of the church, near Half-moon-alley, is a large brick building, known by the name of the London Workhouse. This building was established by act of parliament in the year 1649, for the relief and employment of the poor, and the punishing vagrants and disorderly persons within the city and liberties of London. In 1662, another act of parliament was passed, by which the governors, consisting of the lord mayor, aldermen, and fifty-two citizens, chosen by the common-council, were constituted a body corporate with a common seal. The lord mayor, for the time being, was appointed president of the corporation, which was allowed to purchase lands or tenements to the annual value of three thousand pounds; and the common-council were empowered to rate the several wards, precincts, and parishes of this city, for its support.

The several parishes, besides their assessments, formerly paid one shilling per week for each child they had in the work-house; but, in the year 1751, the governors came to a resolution, that no more children, paid for by the parishes to which they belonged,

longed, should be taken into the house; and since that time it has been resolved, that only such children should be taken in as were committed by the governors or magistrates of the city, found begging in the streets, pilfering, or lying about in uninhabited places.

These children are dressed in russet cloth, with a round badge upon their breasts, representing a poor boy and a sheep, with this motto, God's providence is my inheritance. The boys are taught to read and write, and the principal part of their time is spent in weaving, &c. the girls are employed in sewing, spinning, and other labour, by which they are qualified for services. When they are arrived at a proper age, the boys are bound out apprentices to trades or the sea; and the girls are placed in reputable families.

When assistance is wanted to defray the expense attending the Workhouse, the governors apply to the court of common-council, who, on each application, order the sum of two thousand pounds to be paid by a proportionate assessment on the respective parishes in the city.

Since the prison of Ludgate has been taken down, the debtors, citizens of London, have been confined in a part of this building.

Returning again to the east side of the street, opposite to Old Bethlem is Devonshire-square. On this spot was formerly a magnificent structure erected by Jasper Fisher, one of the six clerks in chancery, whose fortune not being answerable to his house, it was called in derision, Fisher's Folly. It afterwards belonged to the Earls of Oxford; and, lastly, to the Dutchess of Devonshire, whose name is still preserved to the street and square built on the spot.

At a small distance north-east from this square, was a place called, anciently, Tassel Close, which was let to the cross-bow-makers, who used to practise a game on it of shooting at the poppinjay. On the decline of archery, and the invention of gunpowder, this close was surrounded by a brick wall, and served as an Artillery Ground, where the gunners of the Tower used weekly to practice the art of gunnery. The last prior of St. Mary Spital granted this Artillery Ground for thrice ninety-nine years, for the exercise of great and small artillery; and hence this ground became subject to the Tower. The artillery company received a charter from King Henry, which was afterwards confirmed by Queen Elizabeth: and, in 1622, an armoury was erected in it, containing five hundred sets of arms. The company, at length, grew so numerous, that this ground was too small for them; and when they removed to the present Artillery Ground, this spot was distinguished by the name of the Old Artillery Ground. It is now converted into streets and lanes, but the name is still retained in Artillery-street.

Contiguous to this field, on the north, where Duke and Steward-streets are situated, stood the priory and hospital of St. Mary Spital, which was founded in the year 1107, by Walter Brune and his wife Rosia, for canons regular. At the time of its surrender to Henry VIII. in 1539, it was valued at four hundred and seventy-eight pounds per annum, and contained one hundred and eighty beds for the accommodation of poor objects, who were carefully provided with all the necessaries of life.

To this hospital the lord mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, repaired annually in their formalities, attended by the governors and children of Christ's Hospital, and accompanied by many persons of distinction, to hear the sermons that were preached on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, in Easter week.

These sermons, which were always on the subject of the resurrection of our Saviour, were delivered by some of the most eminent of the city divines, from a pulpit cross, situated in the church yard, like that at St. Paul's; opposite to which was a handsome house, two stories high, for the reception of the mayor and his company.

This custom was kept up till the year 1642, but in the grand rebellion the pulpit was broken down by the fanatics, and the preaching discontinued. It was, however, so far revived at the restoration, that the Spital sermons have been since preached at St. Bride's in Fleet-street.

The street leading from the gate to Shoreditch was first paved, in pursuance of an act of parliament, in 1543.

Between the church-yard of St. Botolph, and the south-east corner of Moorfields, was a long street, with several smaller ones contiguous, called Petty France, from having been first inhabited by people of that nation. On this spot now stand the elegant streets called New Broad-street and Broad-street-buildings, the residence of merchants of the first respectability.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Broad-street ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—Broad-street.—Excise-office.—-St. Peter-le-Poor.—Austin Friars.—Dutch Church.—Winchester-street.---Pinners'-hall.—Threadneedle-street.---French Protestant Church.—Hospital of St. Anthony.—South Sea House.—St. Martin Outwich.—Merchant Taylors' Hall.—St. Bennet Fink.—Allhallows, London-wall.—Carpenters'-hall.—Throgmorton-street.--Drapers'-hall. St. Bartholomew, Exchange.—Bank of England.—Royal Exchange.

This ward takes its name from a street in it, which obtained the appellation of Broad-street for being, before the fire of London, one of the widest within the walls of the city. It is bounded on the north and east by Bishopsgate ward; on the south by Cornhill and Wallbrook wards, and on the west by Coleman-street ward.

It is divided into ten precincts, and extends from the north-east corner of Helmet-court, in Wormwood-street, to the iron gate near the back part of Bethlem Hospital; from thence to St. Margaret's church in Lothbury; then turning to the south-west to St. Mildred's-court, in the Poultry, which is its south-west extremity: from hence it passes along Threadneedle-street, and across Finch-lane to St. Martin's Outwich; and, keeping to the eastward of Broad-street, terminates in Helmet-court. It is governed by an alderman, ten common-councilmen, ten constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

Within its limits are included Old Broad-street, Thread, or Threeneedle-street, Bartholomew-lane, Throgmorton-street, Winchester-street, Austin Friars, and part of London-wall.

In surveying this ward we shall begin at that part of it from which it derives its name, viz. Broad-street. On the east side of this street stands the Excise-office, a handsome plain stone building, of four stories in height, with an entrance through the middle of it into a large yard, in which is another building of brick, nearly the size of the principal one. The front building stands on the site of ten alms-houses, founded by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1575; and the back one, with the yard, occupies the space on which Gresham College formerly stood. Part of it is in Bishopsgate ward. From the centre of both buildings, are long passages and staircases to the galleries, in which are the numerous offices for the commissioners and clerks in the different departments of the excise.

This is the principal office of excise in his majesty's dominions, and the business of it is conducted by nine commissioners, under whom are a great number of officers, both within and without the house. These receive the duties on beer, ale, and spirituous liquors; on tea, coffee, and chocolate; on malt, hops, soap, starch, candles, paper, vellum, parchment, and other exciseable commodities: for the surveying and collecting of which duties a great number of out-door officers are employed in different districts or divisions, throughout the kingdom, to prevent frauds and losses. Before these commissioners all cases of seizure for frauds committed in the several branches of the revenue under their direction, are tried: and from their determination there is no appeal except to the commissioners of appeal, who are part of themselves, for a rehearing.

On the west side of Broad-street, nearly opposite to the back entrance of the South-sea-house, is situated the parish church of St. Peter-le-poor. This church is of very ancient foundation, as appears from a register of it so far back as the year 1181. It was dedicated to St. Peter the Apostle, and is distinguished from other churches of that name by the additional epithet of Le Poor, which Stow conjectures was given to it from the ancient state of the parish, though, in his time, there were many fair houses in it, possessed by rich merchants and others.

The old church projected a considerable distance beyond the line of the houses, and was a great obstruction to the passage of the street, in consequence of which, an act of parliament was passed, in 1788, for taking it down and rebuilding it, further back, taking in the site of a court behind. This desirable object was completed in 1791, at an expense of upwards of four thousand pounds, of which the city of London subscribed four hundred; the remainder was raised by annuities in the parish. The west end of this new church is elegantly simple: the door is in the centre, between doubled Ionic columns; the ends of the front are adorned with pilasters of the same order, between which and the columns, are a blank window on each side. Above the door is a moulded pediment, with a plain tympanum, over which rises a square tower, in two stories; the first plain, for the clock and bells, the second ornamented with double Corinthian pilasters at the corners, on each of which stands a handsome vase, The whole is surmounted with an elegant bell-shaped dome, terminated by a weathercock. It is a rectory, the advowson of which appears to have been always in the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

At a small distance west of this church is Austin Friars, built on the site of a priory dedicated to St. Augustine, or Austin, Bishop of Hippo, in Africa, and founded for the friars Eremites of that order, by Humphry Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. The founder and his family built a very fair and capacious church; but this, with the other buildings within its precincts, were granted away, in parcels, by King Henry VIII. In the fourth year of his reign, Edward VI. granted all the church, except the choir and steeple, to a congregation of Germans, and other strangers, who fled here for the sake of religion, and ordered it to be called, *The Temple of the Lord Jesus.* Several successive princes have confirmed it to the Dutch, by whom it is still used as a place of worship.

It is a large and spacious Gothic edifice, supported by two rows of stone pillars. At the east end are several steps, leading to a large platform, on which is placed a long table, with seats against the wall, and forms round, for the use of persons receiving the holy communion: the windows, on one side, have the words, *Jesus Temple*, painted on them, in several places. At the west end is a library, that contains several valuable manuscripts, among which are the letters of Calvin, Peter Martyr, and other foreign reformers.

This place of worship, which is now called the Dutch church, in Austin Friars, is served by two ministers, who preach twice every Sunday, and once in the week. They administer the sacrament on the last Sunday in every month, and exchange churches every first Sunday in the month, with the Walloon congregation, for the administration of the Eucharist; their own church in Threadneedle-street being too small. The ministers have good salaries, and the church provides a sufficient subsistence for their widows.

Part of the house, gardens, and cloisters, belonging to this priory, were granted to Sir William Paulet, lord-treasurer to Henry VIII. who erected a stately edifice on the site, which afterwards devolved to his son, the Marquis of Winchester, with the choir and steeple of the conventual church, who disposed of the pavement thereof, with all the magnificent sepulchral monuments of the nobility, for the pitiful sum of one hundred pounds; he also stripped the roof of the lead, and converted the building into a stable. The remains of the mansion-house are still to be seen in the old Pay-office, at the corner of Winchester-street, now converted into dwelling and counting-houses for merchants. Winchester-street was built on the ground of the gardens, and contains several houses worthy of the notice of the antiquary, particularly that in the south west angle, which is supposed to be the one alluded to by Strype, when he says, "Here was a great messuage, called the Spanish Ambassador's House, of late inhabited by Sir James Houblon, Knt. and alderman of London."

At the upper end of Pinners'-court, in Winchester-street, stands Pinners' or Pinmakers'-hall, a very antique building, principally used as a dissenting meeting-house. This was also a part of the Augustine priory, which was converted into a glass-house, for the manufacture of Venice-glass, before it became the property of the Pinners' company.

The Walloon, or French protestant church, stands on the north side of Threadneedle-street, opposite Finch-lane. It is founded upon the site of the chapel of the hospital of St. Anthony. Divine service is performed here, in the French tongue, after the manner of the church of England. The old building being entirely destroyed by the fire of London, the present church was erected at the sole expense of the French protestants. It is a small, but neat place of worship, with a convenient vestry at the south east corner.

The hospital of St. Anthony was a cell to the priory of St. Anthony, of Vienna, and the building was originally a synagogue, which was granted by Henry III. in the year 1231, to the monks of this fraternity. About the year 1338, they erected a free school, on a piece of garden ground, that was given to them, on the north side of the hospital, which, in a short time, flourished so much, as to rival St. Paul's School; and, as an encouragement to this foundation, Henry VI. granted divers lands, in the county of Southampton, towards the maintenance of five of their scholars, at the University of Oxford; each of whom were to be allowed ten pence per week.

At the general suppression of the monasteries, by Henry VIII. the revenues of this hospital were valued at fifty-five pounds six shillings and eight pence per annum. Edward VI. granted it to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, and their successors for ever. In the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, the foreign protestants having but one place of worship, in the city, viz. the church in Austin Friars, the French, by the assistance of Grindal, Bishop of London, obtained of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, a lease of the chapel of St. Anthony's hospital, in Threadneedle-street, which they have occupied ever since.

At the north east extremity of Threadneedle-street, is the South-Sea-house. This house stands upon a large extent of ground, running backward as far as Old Broad-street, facing the church of St. Peter-le-Poor. The back front was originally the Excise-office, and then the South-Sea company's office, and it is now distinguished by the name of the Old South-Sea-house. It is a substantial and handsome building of brick, ornamented with Portland stone. The front, in Threadneedle-street, is very beautiful. The entrance is a gateway, leading into a court, with a piazza, formed of Doric pillars. The walls are remarkably solid, and the interior is very commodious: one room, in particular, is peculiarly lofty, spacious, and elegant.

Directly opposite, and partly in Bishopsgate-street, stands the parish church of St. Martin Outwich. This church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, in France, about the year 376, is of great antiquity. It derives its additional name of Outwich from the family of Oteswich. Stow names four of them, who were buried here, viz. Martin, Nicholas, William, and John, who were proprietors of it. In the year 1325, John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, presented to this living; but he dying without issue, and leaving his estates to the crown, the advowson was purchased, in 1387, by the above family, who, in the sixth year of the reign of Henry II. gave it, with four messuages, seventeen shops, and the appurtenances, in the said parish, to the master and wardens of the Taylors and Linen armourers, and to their successors, to be employed for the perpetual help and relief of the poor brethren and sisters of the said company: by virtue of which grant, the company of Merchant-Taylors have ever since enjoyed the right of patronage to this church.

The old church, which was built in 1540, was one of the few that escaped the fire of London; but the ravages of time, assisted by the injuries it sustained from a fire in Bishopsgate-street, in 1765, had affected it so much, that it was taken down, in 1795, and the present structure, the first stone of which was laid on the 4th of May, 1796, has been erected in its stead; which afforded an opportunity of enlarging the entrance into Threadneedle-street, by taking off the angle, which before projected into that street. It is a plain neat building of brick, except the east end, which is of stone; above which rises a low circular tower, surmounted by a dome. It is a rectory.

On the same side of Threadneedle-street, a little further westward, is Merchant-Taylors'-hall. In the front of this edifice is a large handsome door-case, adorned with two demi-columns; the entablature and pediment of which are of the Composite order. Above the entrance is the arms of the company, finely carved in stone. Withinside are tapestry hangings, containing the history of their patron, St. John the Baptist, which, though very old, are curious and valuable. The great hall is so extensive, that it is better adapted for the reception of large assemblies, than any other in the city, and is therefore occasionally used for such purposes.

At the south west end of the street, stands the parish church of St. Bennet Fink. This church is so called from its dedication to St. Benedict, an Italian saint, and founder of the order of Benedictine monks; and it received the additional name of Fink, from one Robert Fink, who rebuilt it. It is of ancient foundation, and, though at present only a curacy, yet was originally a rectory; John de Branketree being rector thereof, before the year 1323. The patronage of this church, which was formerly in the family of the Nevils, falling to the crown, King Edward IV. gave it to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor; and the impropriation being in the said dean and chapter, it is supplied by one of the canons, who is licensed by the Bishop of London.

The old church being destroyed by fire, in 1666, the present building was erected in 1673. The body is of an elliptical form, enlightened by large arched windows, which reach to the roof. This is encompassed with a balustrade, and crowned with a lantern; a dome rises upon the whole extent of the tower, and on its top is a turret. The churchyard was given to the parishioners, as a free burial place, without any expense.

Returning now to London-wall, a little to the east of Bethlem Hospital stands the parish church of Allhallows, London-wall. The patronage of this church, which is a rectory, was anciently in the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity, near Aldgate, who presented Thomas Richer de Sanston to it, in 1335.

At the dissolution of religious houses, in the time of Henry VIII. this church, with the priory to which it belonged, was surrendered to the crown, in whom the advowson still remains. The old church escaped the fire of London, but became so ruinous that, in 1765, the parishioners obtained an act of parliament to empower them to pull it down, together with the parsonage house, and to enable them to raise money by annuities to rebuild it.

The present church is built with brick and stone, and though plain is very neat. It is longer than the old church, and the rector's house stands at the north-east corner of the church-yard.

Nearly opposite the east end of Bethlem Hospital, on the south side of the street, is a court with an entrance by a large pair of iron gates, called Carpenters' Buildings, at a small distance from which is situated Carpenters'-hall. This building is very old, and, like many of the city halls before the fire of London, is principally composed of timber and plaster, yet is not devoid of beauty. It has a very pleasant prospect into the gardens of Drapers'-hall. At present it is used as a carpet warehouse.

On the north side of Throgmorton-street is Drapers'-hall. This is a spacious and noble edifice, built upon the ruins of a palace erected on that spot by Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, in the reign of King Henry VIII. on the site of several tenements belonging to the priory of St. Augustine, which he purchased at its suppression. But the garden belonging to the edifice not being of sufficient extent to gratify his inordinate ambition, he, in an arbitrary manner, without the consent of either landlord or tenant, caused the fences of the neighbouring gardens to be removed twenty-two feet northward, and having added the ground to his own garden, inclosed it with a high brick wall.

Among the sufferers was Stow's father, who had a garden adjoining to Cromwell's, with a house standing close to the south paling of it. This house was raised from the ground, and, being placed on rollers, was removed back to that distance without the knowledge of the owner, who could not obtain satisfaction for the injury, so greatly was the power of this oppressor dreaded.

This noble mansion being forfeited to the crown by his attainder and execution for high treason, it was purchased by the company of Drapers, who converted it into a hall for transacting the business of their corporation: and that building being destroyed by the fire of London, the company built the present hall, which is a most elegant building, composing the four sides of a quadrangle, each of which is elevated on columns, and adorned with arches formed in a piazza round a square court; and between each arch is a shield, mantling, and other fretwork. On the east side is the common-hall, the ascent to which is by a grand stair-case, and within, it is adorned with a stately screen and fine wainscot. On the screen, between the two doors, hangs the picture, a three quarters length, of Henry Fitz-Alwyn, a draper, and the first Lord Mayor of London. At the north end of this room are the pictures of King William III. King George I. and King George II. in their royal robes, at full length, and as large as life.

At the north-west angle of this room a door opens into another, called the court room, richly wainscoted and furnished; at the east end of which hangs an original picture of Mary Queen of Scots, at full length, with her infant son, King James I. in her hand. From this court room another door, at the west end, opens into a large gallery, at the north end of which a folding sash door opens into a square room called the Ladies' Chamber; in this the company formerly treated their wives and friends with a ball. In the center of this room hangs a large and beautiful chandelier of cut glass, presented to the company by Sir Joseph Eyles, Knt. and over the chimneypiece is a fine picture of Sir Robert Clayton, Knt. sometime Lord mayor of London. The south end of this gallery leads into the apartments allotted to the clerk, which are very commodious and elegant, with offices below for the transacting of business. And these apartments, with the accommodation for the upper porter, fill up the whole front of this noble building.

At the north-west angle of this quadrangle there is a paved passage to the gardens belonging to the hall. Over this passage, upon an arch built of brick and stone, is a strong room, covered with a large back or cistern of water. This is the record room, where the company keep their writings, books, and papers; and their plate, which for quantity and workmanship, is said to exceed that of all the other companies. The gardens, which are pleasant and commodious, are open every day, except Sundays and wet days, for the recreation of all persons decently dressed. The ground which they occupy is very nearly a square: the middle is inclosed with iron rails, and laid out in grass beds, gravel walks, and borders of flowers, with a statue of Flora in the center. Without the rails are fine spacious walks, kept in good order, and agreeably shaded with rows of lime-trees. At the south-west corner is a very handsome pavilion for the accommodation of company in hot weather, when tired with walking: and near the north east angle is a very commodious house for the use of the upper beadle of the company. The north side lies open to Carpenters'-hall; and at the south-east angle there is a garden, inclosed with walls; on the south side of which, under the ladies' chamber, is a private room elegantly furnished, where the managers, or ruling part of the company, hold their committees, or previous meetings, before matters are presented to a general court.

At the south-east corner of Bartholomew-lane stands the parish church of St. Bartholomew, Exchange. This church is of very ancient foundation; for, in the year 1331, John de Tyerne was presented to this living, on the death of John de Aldeburgh, the rector; and it was become so decayed, that it was entirely rebuilt in the year 1438.

The old church was burnt down by the fire of London, after which the present building was erected. It consists of a very irregular body, with a tower crowned with arches, supported by columns of the Corinthian order. The living, at the time of the reformation, being in the gift of the abbey of St. Mary of Grace, it fell, with the dissolution of that religious house, into the hands of the crown, in whom it has continued to the present time.

Almost at the extremity of this ward, occupying a a space surrounded by four streets, viz. Bank Buildings, Bartholomew-lane, Lothbury, and Princes-street, stands that extensive and magnificent edifice, the Bank of England. The south, or principal front, is composed of a center building, eighty feet in length, of the Ionic order, raised on a rustic basement; and two wings, each ornamented with a colonade of double Corinthian pillars, with recesses between. At the extremities of each wing is an angular pediment, with a circular niche, in which are well executed busts. Through the principal front, there are one large and two small entrances into a quadrangle, on the north side of which stands the great hall. The front of this building is an elegant specimen of Corinthian architecture, having an angular pediment; in the tympanum of which is a fine figure, in alto relievo, of Britannia, with her shield and spear, and, at her feet, a cornucopia, pouring out fruit. The interior of the hall is seventy-nine feet long, and forty feet broad: it is wainscoted to the height of eight feet, and the ceiling is ornamented with fret-work. In this hall is a fine marble statue of William III. the founder of the Bank. On the pedestal of this statue is a Latin inscription; the translation of which is as follows:

For restoring efficacy to the laws,
Authority to the courts of justice,
Dignity to the parliament,
To all his subjects their religion and liberties,
And confirming these to posterity,
By the
Succession of the illustrious House of Hanover
to the British throne:
To the best of princes, William III.
Founder of the Bank,
This corporation, from a sense of gratitude,
Has erected this statue,
And dedicated it to his memory,
In the year of our Lord, M.DCC.XXXIV.
And the first year of this building.

On the east side of this quadrangle is an entrance into that part of the building, called the Rotunda, appropriated for the sale of stock: here are, also, the greater part of the offices for transferring and issuing dividend warrants. On the west side is the office for paying dividend warrants, and a passage, by the side of a small garden, formerly the cemetery of St. Christopher's parish, to the office for transferring the three per cent. reduced stock, which stands on the site of the church. The east side of the building, in Bartholomew-lane, for nearly two thirds of its length, is occupied by a range of Corinthian columns, similar to those in the wings; the remainder of this side, with the north and west sides, however, are much heavier, which is a considerable blemish to the building, especially in Bartholomew-lane, where the change takes place in a very abrupt manner. On this side is the principal entrance into the rotunda. On the north side, there is an arched gateway, opening into another quadrangle, of the Corinthian order, from which there is convenient access to several of the public offices. Above the four columns, on the south side of this quadrangle, are four elegantly carved figures, representing the four quarters of the globe; and at the top of the centre of the building is Britannia, with her attributes. The west, and part of the north side, are yet unfinished. Under the whole are large vaults, with strong walls, and iron gates, for the preservation of the cash and bullion; and, as an additional security against fire, there is a reservoir of water on the top of the building, by means of which, every place of consequence can be inundated in a few minutes.

In laying the foundation of the principal front of this building, in 1732, oyster-shells were found, at a depth of upwards of thirty feet below the surface; which appears to corroborate a tradition, recorded by Stow, that the ancient bed of the Thames was as far to the north as Bucklersbury.

At

At the upper end of Capel-court, in Bartholomew-lane, opposite the east entrance of the Bank, is the Stock Exchange, a plain, neat building, with a stone front, except the attic story, which is of brick. This place was erected in 1801, for the exclusive use of the subscribers, who consist of the principal stock-brokers, and is fitted up in a very convenient manner.

CHAP. IX.

Of Cornhill Ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—Cornhill.—Birchin-lane.—Change-alley.—Pope's-head-alley.—The Standard.—The Royal Exchange.—St. Michael, Cornhill.—The King's Beam.—St. Peter, Cornhill.

The next ward to the south, is Cornhill-ward, so called from the principal street in it, which, in ancient times, was a market for corn. It is bounded on the east by Bishopsgate-ward; on the north by Broad-street-ward; on the west by Cheap-ward, and on the south by Langbourn-ward.

Its extent is very small; for, beginning at the south-east corner of the church of St. Martin Outwich, it winds through several courts and alleys, to the western extremity of Cornhill, whence it returns, in as tortuous a direction, to St. Peter's-alley, in Gracechurch-street, and then, turning northward, it extends about fifty feet into Bishopsgate-street, and afterwards passes, by the east side of Merchant-Taylors'-hall, to its commencement at the church.

This ward is divided into four precincts, and is governed by an alderman, six common-council-men, four constables, sixteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

Cornhill, which is the principal street in this ward, is very spacious, and consists of large houses, well inhabited. The uniformity of appearance, in most of these buildings, arises from the many fires which have happened on both sides of this street, whereby the old houses were destroyed, and those erected in their stead being all in a more modern style.

On the north side of Cornhill are several lanes, courts, and alleys, inhabited by merchants, or traders of eminence, viz. Finch-lane, Freeman's-court, Sweeting's-alley, Castle-alley, &c. and also the handsome opening to the Bank, called Bank-street.

On the south side are Birchin-lane, in which are the offices of the London Assurance Company, and the Sierra Leone Company; 'Change-alley, Pope's-head-alley, &c.

'Change-alley is so called from its vicinity to the Royal Exchange, and is well known to the mercantile and commercial part of the world, from the great business daily transacted here; and the coffee-houses, called Garraway's, Baker's, &c. intended for the reception and entertainment of merchants, brokers, &c. who assemble here from all parts of the world. But no more of this alley is in Cornhill-ward, than the north passage, and the front houses.

Pope's-head-alley is principally inhabited by brokers, and others, whose avocations require their attendance at the Bank, Stock-Exchange, &c. Its name is derived from a tavern being formerly situated in the front of it, having the Pope's head for a sign. The author of the New View of London says it was one of the most ancient of that calling he could find in London; and that wine, about Henry VI.'s time, was there sold for one penny per pint, and bread given into the bargain. Stow thinks it was, in old time, a prince's palace.

In the centre of the four ways of Cornhill, Leadenhall, Bishopsgate, and Gracechurch streets, was a conduit, called the Water-standard, placed there in the year 1582; the origin of which, according to Stow, was this: "A Dutchman, of the name of Peter Morris, having contrived a forcing pump, for that purpose, conveyed the water of the Thames, in leaden pipes, over the steeple of St. Magnus's church, at the north end of London-bridge, and from thence into divers houses in Thames-street, New Fish-street, and Grass-street, up to the north-west corner of Leadenhall, the highest ground in all the city; where the waste of the main pipe, rising into this standard (provided at the charges of the city), with four spouts, runneth four ways, at every tide, according to covenant, plentifully serving to the commodity of the inhabitants near adjoining, in their houses, and also cleansing the channels of the street, towards Bishopsgate, Aldgate, the Bridge, and the Stocks-market; but now, no such matter; by whose default I know not." *

The most remarkable buildings in this ward, are, the Royal-Exchange, and the parish churches of St. Michael and St. Peter.

The Burse, or meeting-place for merchants, was anciently situated in Lombard-street, but the inconvenience of this place had occasioned frequent complaints among the merchants. At length, Sir Thomas Gresham, in the years 1566 and 1567, erected a spacious and magnificent edifice for this purpose, in Cornhill; which was no sooner finished, than Queen Elizabeth honoured it with the title of the Royal-Exchange.

Sir Thomas Gresham, by his last will, dated November 26, 1579, bequeathed this building, with all its appurtenances, and the profits arising therefrom, to the mayor and citizens of London, and the company of mercers, to be equally enjoyed and possessed by them, on condition that the citizens, out of their moiety, should pay the sum of fifty pounds per annum, to four persons who should read lectures on divinity, astronomy, geometry, and music, at his mansion-house in Broad-street, afterwards called Gresham College. Also, that they should pay six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence per annum to eight alms-people living behind the said college;

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* Survaie, p. 18.

and ten pounds yearly to each of the prisons of Newgate and Ludgate, the King's-bench, Marshalsea, and Wood-street Compter. The mercers, out of their moiety, were to pay to three lecturers fifty pounds per annum each, for reading on the subjects of law, physic, and rhetoric, at his mansion-house; and to expend one hundred pounds per annum on four quarterly dinners at their own hall, for the entertainment of their company; with ten pounds yearly to Christ's, St. Bartholomew's, Bethlehem, and St. Thomas's Hospitals; and the like sum to the Poultry Compter. But this stately fabrick being consumed in the fire of 1666, the foundation of the present magnificent edifice was laid in the year 1667, and it was completed in 1669, as appears by the following inscription above the inner side of the south entrance, Excambium hoc anno M. DC. LXVI. in cineres redactum, in plus quam antiquum splendorem, Prætore Wilhelmo Turnero, Equite, anno M. DC. LXIX. restitutum fuit.

The site of the Old Royal Exchange not being capacious enough to receive the intended new fabric, the city and the Mercers' Company, the trustees under the will of Sir Thomas Gresham, purchased a piece of ground for enlarging it, at the expense of seven thousand two hundred and seventeen pounds, eleven shillings, which added to fifty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-two pounds, the charge of building, makes the whole expense of the Royal Exchange amount to sixty-five thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine pounds eleven shillings.

The ground plot of this building is two hundred and three feet in length, and one hundred and seventy-one feet broad. The area in the middle contains sixty-one square perches, and is surrounded with a substantial and regular stone building, wrought in rustic, with a spacious piazza round it. In the center of the principal fronts, which are north and south, are grand entrances into the area, under very lofty and noble arches.

The south front in Cornhill is the principal: on each side of the entrance are Corinthian columns, supporting a compass pediment; and in the intercolumniation on each side, in the front next the street, is a niche, with the figures of King Charles I. and King Charles II. in Roman habits, well executed. Over the aperture, on the cornice between the two pediments, are the king's arms in relievo. On each side of this entrance is a range of windows between demi-columns and pilasters of the Composite order; above which the building is decorated with a balustrade.

From the centre, in this front, rises a lanthorn and turret one hundred and seventy-eight feet high, on the top of which is a fane in the form of a grasshopper, that insect being the crest of Sir Thomas Gresham's arms: this fane is made of polished brass, and is esteemed a very curious piece of workmanship.

The north front in Threadneedle-street is adorned with pilasters of the Composite order, but has neither columns nor statues on the outside; and instead of the two compass pediments, has a triangular one.

The inner court, as hath been already observed, is surrounded with a wide lofty piazza, serving to shelter the merchants, who meet there, from the inclemency of the weather. Over the arches of this quadrangular piazza is an entablature standing round, and a compass pediment in the middle of the cornice of each of the four sides. On the north side, under the pediment, are the king's arms; on the south, the city arms; on the east, Sir Thomas Gresham's sham's arms; and on the west, the mercers' arms, with their respective enrichments.

There are twenty-four niches in the intercolumns, in twenty of which are the statues of the kings and queens of England, in their royal robes, and with regalia, except three, which are in Roman habits.

On the south side are the statutes of Edward I. Edward III. Henry V. and Henry VI.

On the west side, Edward IV. Edward V. with the crown hanging over his head; Henry VII. and Henry VIII.

On the north side, Edward VI. Mary, Elizabeth, James I. Charles I. Charles II. and James II.

On the east side, William and Mary in one niche, Queen Anne, George I. George II. and his present majesty King George III.

Under the piazzas, within the area, are twenty-eight niches, all vacant except that in which Sir Thomas Gresham's statue is placed in the north-west angle; and that in the south-west, where the statue of Sir John Barnard was placed in his life-time by his fellow-citizens, to express their sense of his merit as a merchant, a magistrate, and faithful representative of the city of London.

In the centre of the area is erected, on a marble pedestal, about eight feet high, another statue of King Charles II. in a Roman habit, executed by Mr. Gibbon, and encompassed with iron rails. On the south side of the pedestal, under an imperial crown, a sceptre, palm branches, and other decorations, is the following inscription:

Carolo II. Cæsari Britannico,
Patriæ Patri,
Regum Optimo, Clementissimo, Augustissimo,
Generis humani deliciis,
Utriusque Fortunæ Victori,
Pacis Europæ arbitro.
Marium Dominio ac Vindici,
Societas Mercatorum adventurur. Angliæ
Quæ per CCCC jam prope annos,
Regia benignitate floret,
Fidei intemeratæ et gratitudinis æternæ,
Hoc testimonium
Venerabunda posuit
Anno saluti humanæ M.DC.LXXXIV.

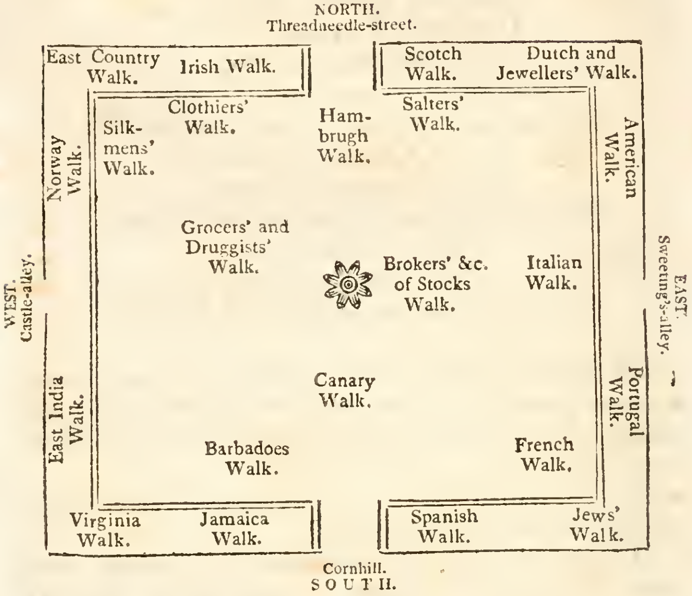
On the west side of the pedestal, is cut in relievo, a cupid resting his hand on a shield, containing the arms of France and England quartered, and holding in his left a rose

On the north side are the arms of Ireland on a shield, supported by a cupid.

On the east side are the arms of Scotland, with a cupid holding a thistle. And, on the base of the pedestal, on the south, is the following inscription:

"This statue was repaired and beautified by the company of Merchant-Adventurers of England anno 1730; John Hanbury, Esq. governor."

In this area, and under the surrounding piazza, the merchants, and other persons engaged in mercantile connexions, meet every day to transact business, between the hours of twelve at noon, and three o'clock; and for mutual conveniency, those engaged in the same branches of trade, assemble in distinct parts, or, as they are called, The Walks, a view of which may be seen by the following sketch or plan.


NORTH.
Threadneedle-street.
East Country Walk.
Irish Walk.
Scotch Walk.
Dutch and Jewellers' Walk.
Clothiers' Walk.
Silkmens' Walk.
Hambrugh Walk.
Salters' Walk.
Norway Walk.
American Walk.
Grocers' and Druggists' Walk.
Brokers' &c. of Stocks Walk.
Italian Walk.
WEST. Castle-alley.
EAST. Sweeting's-alley.
Canary Walk.
East India Walk.
Portugal Walk.
Barbadoes Walk.
French Walk.
Virginia Walk.
Jamaica Walk.
Spanish Walk.
Jews' Walk.
Cornhill.
SOUTH.

Under the north and south fronts are spacious stair-cases, which lead to a gallery that extends round the four sides of the building, and in which were formerly about two hundred shops, occupied by milliners, haberdashers, &c. but those shops have been long deserted; and the galleries are now occupied by the Royal Exchange Assurance Office, the Lord Mayor's Court Office, the Merchants' Seamens' Office, Lloyd's Subscription Coffee-houses, the rooms appropriated for the Gresham lectures, and a number of counting-houses for merchants and underwriters. The shops in the lower part of the building are mostly used as counting-houses by stock-brokers.

Under the whole are vaults, kept by the East India company, as magazines for pepper.

In the turret is a good clock, which goes with chimes, at the hours of three, six, nine, and twelve; it has four dials, and is so regulated as to become a standard of time to all the mercantile parts of the town.

On the south side of Cornhill, further to the east, is the parish church of St. Michael, Cornhill. This church, which is a rectory, owes its name to its dedication to St. Michael, the Archangel, and to its situation.

The patronage of it appears to have been anciently in the abbot and convent of Evesham, erroneously called Covesham, who, in the year 1133, granted the same to Sparling, a priest, with all the lands thereunto belonging, except those held by Orgar le Proud, at the rent of two shillings a year; in consideration of which grant, the said Sparling covenanted and agreed, not only to pay, annually, to the abbot and canons, the sum of thirteen shillings and four pence, but likewise to supply the house of the said abbot (when in London), with fire, water, and salt.

Sometime afterwards, the rectory reverted to the convent, and they continued patrons of it, until the year 1503, when, by a deed, bearing date December 3, they conveyed the advowson to the Drapers' company, in consideration of a perpetual annuity of five pounds six shillings and eight pence, in addition to an ancient pension of six shillings and eight pence annually, paid to the abbot and canons, out of the said church; since which time, the patronage has continued to be in the Drapers' company.

The old church being destroyed by the fire of London, in 1666, the present Gothic structure arose, in its stead; the body of which is seventy feet longe sixty broad, thir ty-five in height, and one hundrd and thirty feet to the top of the tower. The lower part of the tower occupies the centre of the church; and, on each side, there is a regular extent of building. The principal door opens in the lower stage of the tower, which rises with angulated corners from the ground, forming a kind of base, terminated at the height of the body of the church. The second stage, which is plain and lofty, has two tall windows, one over the other, properly shaped for the style of the building: this is terminated with a truly Gothic cornice. The third stage is exactly in the form of the two others, only they are plain, and this is covered with ornaments; the angulated corners are fluted, and terminated by cherubs' heads, under a cornice; the plain face, between, has four windows, in two series. Above the cornice, over the uppermost of these windows, runs a battlement, on the plain faces of the tower, and from the corners are carried up four beautiful fluted turrets, cased, a part of their height, with Doric turrets; these terminate in pinnacle heads, from within which rises a spire at each corner, crowned with a vane. The tower contains an excellent ring of bells, remarkable for their melody.

Here is a lecture every Sunday morning, and on every holiday, founded by John Rayney, Esq. who left houses, in Gracechurch-street, to the company of Drapers, charged with the payment of forty pounds per annum, for the support thereof.

Contiguous to this church, on the south side, was anciently situated a handsome cloister, and a churchyard, wherein was a pulpit-cross (resembling that of St. Paul's), erected by Sir John Rudstone, mayor of this city, in 1528; who purchased ground in the neighbourhood, and not only enlarged the said churchyard, but likewise erected convenient apartments for the choristers, who daily officiated in the church; but the choir being dissolved, in the reign of Henry VIII. the apartments were converted into habitations for decayed parishioners.

Almost opposite to this church, in Cornhill, stood, anciently, the King's weigh-house, or beam, for weighing foreign merchandize; to which belonged a number of porters, and also a cart and four horses, for the convenience of conveying goods to and from the weigh-house.

Near the south-east corner of Cornhill, stands the church of St. Peter, Cornhill, which, if the following inscription, engraved on a tablet of brass, and hanging in the church, near the baptismal font, can be relied on, is by far the most ancient of the Christian churches in Britain. It must, however, be observed, that, independently of the general disbelief of the existence of a king, named Lucius, the only authorities for which are, Geffry of Monmouth, and Joceline of Furnes, the style appears to be much too modern, and is probably a fabrication, about the time of Henry VI.

"Be hit known to all men, that the yeerys of owr Lord God, an. CLXXIX. Lucius, the fyrst Christen king of this lond, then cally'd Brytayne, fowndyd the fyrst chyrch in London; that is to sey, the chyrch of Sent Peter, apon Cornhyl; and he fowndyd ther an archbishop's see, and made that chirch the metropolitant and cheef chirch of this kindom, and so endury'd the space of CCCC yeerys, and more, unto the commyng of Sent Austen, an apostyl of Englond; the whych was sent into the lond by Sent Gregory, the doctor of the chirch, in the tyme of King Ethelbert; and then was the archbishoppys see and pol removed from the aforesaid chirch of St. Peters, upon Cornhyl, unto Derebernaum, that now ys callyd Canterbury, and ther yt remeynyth to this dey.

"And Millet Monk, whych came into this lond wyth Sent Austen, was made the fyrst Bishop of London, and hys see was made in Powllys chirch. And this Lucius, kyng, was the fyrst foundyr of Peter's chyrch, apon Cornhyl; and he regnyed king, in thys ilond, after Brut. MCCXLV. yeerys. And the yeerys of owr Lord God a CXXIV. Lucius was crownyd kyng; and the yeers of hys reygne, LXXVII yeerys; and he was beryd, aftyr sum cronekil, at London, and, after sum cronekil, he was beryd at Glowcester, at that plase wher the order of Sent Francys standyth."

Whatever credit may be given to the antiquity of this church, from the above inscription, it is certain that the church, known in ancient records by the name of St. Peter, *super* Cornhill, that is, above, or at the top of Cornhill, is of very ancient foundation. The earliest authentic account, however, we find of this church, is, that William Kingston, before the year 1298, gave to it his tenement in Grass-street, called the Horse-mill; and that there anciently belonged to the church a public library, well furnished with books; which being privately disposed of, the building was converted into a school for the education of youth.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have been in a family of the Nevils; for the Lady Alice, relict of Sir Hugh Nevil, in the year 1362, made a feoffment thereof to Richard, Earl of Arundel and Surrey; and, passing afterwards through various hands, it was, in the year 1411, conveyed, by Richard Whittington, and others, to the lord mayor and commonalty of London; in whom the right of advowson still remains.

The old edifice was totally destroyed by the fire, in 1666; soon after which the present structure was erected. It is a very substantial building, eighty feet long, forty-seven feet broad, forty feet high, to the roof, and one hundred and forty feet to the top of the steeple. The body is plain, with a single series of windows. The tower is also plain, with one window in each stage; and the dome, which supports the spire, is of the lantern kind. The spire is crowned with a ball, on which is a vane, in the form of a key, alluding to the key of St. Peter.

CHAP. X.

Of Langbourn Ward.—Anciently Fenny-about.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—Lombard-street.—Fenchurch-street.—Allhallows Staining.—Hall of the Hudson's Bay Company.—Pewterers'-hall.—St. Dionis Backchurch.—White-hart-court.—Quakers' meeting.—Allhallows, Lombard-street.—St. Edmund the King.—Phœnix Fire-office.—Pelican Life Insurance-office.—St. Mary Woolnoth.—Post-office.

LANGBOURN WARD takes its name from a rivulet, or bourn, which proceeded from a spring, near Church-row, adjoining to the church of St. Catharine Coleman, in Fenchurch-street. This rivulet took its course westward, from the above spring, through Lombard-street, as far as the church of St. Mary Woolnoth, where, turning south, and breaking into many small rills, shares, or streams, it gave name to Sharebourn-lane, or Southbourn-lane, as some have written it, from running southward into the Wallbrook.

By the spreading of this stream, near the spring-head, the contiguous street became so swampy, or fenny, especially about the church, which stood in the mid-way, between Mincing-lane, and Rood-lane, that it was thence called Fenchurch-street; and the ward also partook of the same appellation, and was enrolled, on the city records, by the name of Fenny-about.

Langbourn-ward is bounded on the east by Aldgate-ward; on the south, by Tower-street, Billingsgate, Candlewick, and Bridge-within wards; on the west, by Wallbrook-ward; and on the north, by Aldgate and Lime-street-wards.

It is divided into twelve precincts, and is governed by an alderman, ten common-council-men, twelve constables, sixteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal streets in this ward are Fenchurch-street, and Lombard-street; the latter of which obtained its name from the Lombards, or Italian merchants, who settled there; and by this name it was known, so early as the reign of Edward II. In this street are several principal lanes and courts, which are filled with the houses of merchants and eminent traders: those on the south side, are, St. Swithin's-lane, Sherbourn-lane, Abchurch-lane, St. Nicholas-lane, and St. Clement's-lane; those on the north side, are, Pope's-head-alley, Exchange-alley, Birchin-lane, and George-yard.

In Fenchurch-street are, also, several principal streets and lanes, which are well inhabited; on the south side, are Philpot-lane, Rood-lane, Mincing-lane, and Mark-lane; and, on the north side, Lime-street, Cullum-street, &c.

At the eastern extremity of this ward, is the parish church of Allhallows Staining, on the west side, and near the north end of Mark-lane.

This church is believed to be of Saxon origin, because of the additional epithet of Stane, now corruptly called Staining; which our antiquaries are of opinion was given to it, on account of being built with stone, to distinguish it from some of the other churches in this city, of the same name, that were built of wood. The first authentic mention of it is in the year 1329, when Edward Camel was incumbent thereof.

It was anciently a rectory, under the patronage of the De Walthams, and others, till about 1369, when Simon, Bishop of London, upon the petition of the abbot and convent of Grace, near the Tower, appropriated it to them and their successors, with power to convert the profits to their own use, and to supply the cure with either a monk or a secular priest, removeable at their pleasure. This curacy devolving, with the abbey, to the crown, it was sold, on the 7th of October, 1607, by King James the First, to George Bingley, and others, to be held of the crown, in soccage; and, coming afterwards to the Lady Slany, was by her bequeathed to the company of Grocers, who have since held the advowson.

This church escaped the fire, in 1666; but it was in so ruinous a state, that the body of it fell down, three years after, and the whole was rebuilt, at the expense of the parishioners, as it now appears. It is a very plain edifice, enlightened with Gothic windows; but the front, which is of free-stone, is of the Tuscan order. It has a square tower, crowned with a small turret. The length of the church is seventy-eight feet, its breadth thirty-two, and its height twenty-four; and the altitude of the tower is seventy feet.

In this parish, on the north side of Fenchurch-street, but backward from the street, at the upper end of Culver-court, is the hall belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company. It is a very elegant brick building, adorned with pilasters, architraves, &c. In this hall is a vast pair of horns, of the Moose deer, weighing fifty-six pounds; and, in another room, the picture of an elk, killed in the presence of Charles XI. of Sweden, which weighed twelve hundred and twenty-nine pounds.

On the same side of Fenchurch-street is Lime-street; on the west side of which is Pewterers'-hall, a very good and convenient building. In the court-room is a portrait of Sir William Smallwood, who was master of the company in the reign of Henry VII. and gave them the hall, with a garden, and six tenements adjoining.

Near the south-west corner of Lime-street, behind the houses in Fenchurch-street, stands the parish church of St. Dionis, Backchurch. It owes its name to being dedicated to St. Dionis, Dionysius, or Dennis, an Athenian areopagite, or judge, who, being converted to Christianity, and afterwards made Bishop of Athens, travelled into France, where he suffered martyrdom, by being beheaded, and has been since adopted as the patron saint of the French nation. The epithet of Backchurch was added, from its situation behind a row of houses, to distinguish it from the church of St. Gabriel, which, before the fire in 1666, stood in the middle of Fenchurch-street; wherefore those churches were anciently known by no other appellation but those of Fore and Backchurch.

The oldest authentic mention of this church, is in the year 1288, when Reginald de Standon was rector of it. It is one of the thirteen peculiars in the city, belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The patronage was formerly in the prior and canons of that church; but at the dissolution of the priory, it was conferred upon the dean and chapter, who have remained patrons ever since.

The old edifice was destroyed in 1666, and the present structure was erected in 1674, except the steeple, which was not added until ten years after. It is a plain stone building, of the Ionic order, with a tower and turret; in which are ten bells, and a set of chimes. The length of the church is sixty-six feet, its breadth fifty-nine, and the height of the roof thirty-four feet; that of the tower and turret is ninety feet.

Nearly opposite to the west end of Fenchurch-street, in Gracechurch-street, is White-hart-court, which consists of neat buildings, mostly inhabited by Quakers,

Quakers. On one side of this court is a very handsome meeting-house, the principal one belonging to that sect in the metropolis.

From this court there is a passage into Lombard-street, which contains many good and lofty houses, chiefly the residences of bankers, and eminent tradesmen.

At the east end of it, behind the houses on the north side, stands the parish church of Allhallows, Lombard-street. It is a rectory, and one of the Archbishop of Canterbury's peculiars. The advowson appears to have been anciently in lay hands; for Brithmer, a citizen of London, with the approbation of Stigand, the archbishop, and Godric, the dean, gave it, with a messuage adjoining, to the church of Canterbury, in the year 1053; by virtue of which donation, the right of patronage still remains in the Dean and Chapter of the Metropolitan church.

This was the last rebuilt of the churches destroyed by the fire in 1666, not being finished until 1694. It is a neat, plain, well-proportioned building. The body is enlightened by a single series of large windows; and the tower, which is square, is terminated by a plain battlement. The length of the church is eighty-four feet, its breadth fifty-two, its height thirty, and that of the tower eighty-five feet.

A little to the west of this church, between George-yard and Birchin-lane, stands that of St. Edmund the King.

This church received its name from being dedicated to Edmund, the Saxon king, who was murdered by the Danes, in the year 870; and though the origin of its foundation cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty, yet, from several circumstances, it is reasonable to suppose, that it was originally built during the time of the Saxon heptarchy.

The old church was destroyed by the fire of London, after which the present structure was erected on its ruins. The situation of this building differs from most other churches in London; for, instead of east and west, it stands full north and south; by which the altar is placed at the north end of the church. It is sixty-nine feet long, thirty-nine feet broad, and thirty-two feet high, to the roof, which is flat. At the south end is a square tower, from which projects a dial over the street; and upon the tower is a short spire, with its base fixed on a broad lantern.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which is now in the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the year 1175, there was a dispute between the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, and the prior and canons of the Trinity convent, within Aldgate, concerning the patronage; which was determined by Gilbert, Bishop of London, in favour of the latter. The parish is united with that of St. Nicholas Acons, the church of which, before the fire of London, stood on the west side of Nicholas-lane, and was a rectory in the gift of the crown.

Farther west, on the opposite sides of the street, are the Phœnix Fire-office and the Pelican Life Insurance-office, both handsome modern buildings, particularly the last.

At the north-east corner of Sherbourne-lane, on the south side of Lombard-street, stands the parish church of St. Mary Woolnoth, which is so called from its dedication to the Virgin Mary, and its being originally situated near the Woolstaple; the syllable *noth*, corrupted from *neath*, signifying near. The Woolstaple was the place for weighing wool, and stood in the churchyard of St. Mary Woolchurch Haw, to the east of the Stocks-market.

This church is of some antiquity, as appears from John de Norton being rector thereof, in the year 1355; and, from various circumstances, it is supposed that a Roman temple, perhaps the Temple of Concord, stood originally on this spot; for, in digging the foundation for the present edifice, which is one of the fifty new churches, appointed by parliament to be erected within the bills of mortality, in the year 1719, there were found a considerable number of tusks and bones of boars and goats, with several models and pieces of metal, some tesselated work, part of an aqueduct, and a great variety of Roman earthen vessels, both for sacred and profane uses; and at the bottom was found a well, full of dirt, which being removed, a fine spring of salubrious water arose, wherein was fixed a pump.

The old church was not entirely destroyed by the fire of London: the steeple escaped the flames, and the walls were repaired. But these, in length of time, falling greatly to decay, it was thought necessary to pull down the whole; in consequence of which, it was rebuilt of stone, in the year 1719, in the manner it now appears.

This is a very handsome structure, but the ornaments of it are hid from the sight, by the neighbouring buildings. The windows are on the south side, where the edifice is entirely surrounded by houses; and the front of it, which is bold and majestic, is so obscured, that it cannot be seen to advantage, nor can the tower be properly viewed, but from the tops of the houses. On the north side, which fronts Lombard-street, instead of windows, there are three very large and lofty niches, adorned with Ionic columns, and surrounded with a bold rustic; and over these is a large cornice, upon which is placed a balustrade. The entrance is at the west end, by a lofty rustic arch, over which rises a broad shallow tower, ornamented with six composite columns in the front, and two on the sides; upon this are raised two small towers in front crowned with balustrades; from one end of which rises a flag-staff, with a vane.

This church is a rectory, the patronage of which was anciently in the prioress and convent of St. Helen's, in Bishopsgate-street, till, at the dissolution, it fell to the crown; when King Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Martin Bowes, in whose family the patronage has ever since continued.

The living of this church was greatly improved by the parish of St. Mary Woolchurch being annexed to it, the patronage of which is in the crown; and, from the time St. Mary Woolnoth was erected, it has been the parochial church for both parishes.

Adjoining to this church is the Post-office, a spacious brick building, but undeserving of praise as a national edifice. It stands behind the houses, in Lombard-street, from which there is a passage, under an arched gateway, leading into a small paved court; there are also passages into Abchurch-lane, and Sherbourn-lane. It was originally the residence of Sir Robert Vyner, lord mayor, in 1675, who built it on the site of a much-frequented tavern, which was burnt in the great fire; but a great part of it was rebuilt, and considerable improvements made in it, in 1804.

The original establishment of the Post-office, in England, is buried in obscurity. It is certain, that a species of post, though of what nature cannot be ascertained, was in existence as early as the reign of Edward III. The earliest mention of a chief postmaster for England, is in Camden's Annals, under the date of 1581; but what his office was, or how it was managed, does not appear clearly; and, probably, from the limited state of the correspondence of the country, it was of trifling consequence. James I. erected the first Post-office for the conveyance of letters to and from foreign parts, which he placed under the controul of one Matthew de Quester, or de l'Equester. This office was afterwards claimed by Lord Stanhope, but, in 1632, was confirmed and continued to William Frizel, and Thomas Witherings, by King Charles I. It would appear, that, previous to this time, private persons were accustomed to convey letters to and from foreign parts, by all such interference with the postmaster's office being expressly prohibited; and, in 1635, all private inland posts were forbidden.

But the importance of this branch of the public revenue does not seem to have been much attended to by government before the usurpation; till which period, the posts were confined to a few of the principal roads. The outline of the more regular and extensive plan, which was afterwards adopted, originated with Mr. Edmund Prideaux, attorney-general to the commonwealth, who was appointed postmaster, by an ordinance of both houses of parliament; in the execution of which office, he first established a *weekly* conveyance of letters into *all* parts of the nation. In 1653, this revenue was farmed for ten thousand pounds; and, after deducting the charges of postmasters, &c. produced a benefit of seven thousand pounds per annum to the public. At this period, the common-council of London endeavoured to set up a post-office, in opposition to Prideaux's; but they were checked by a resolution of the House of Commons, declaring the office of postmaster to be in the sole power and disposal of the parliament.

In 1656, a new and regular general post-office was erected by the authority of the protector and his parliament, upon nearly the same plan as has been continued ever since; and by an act of parliament, passed soon after the restoration, in 1660, the regulations of 1650 were re-established, with some improvements, which continued, with very little alteration, until the year 1784, when a mode of conveying the mails, upon a plan first suggested by Mr. John Palmer, of Bath, in 1782, was carried into execution. Before the adoption of this plan, letters were conveyed in carts, or by boys on horseback, without protection from robbers, and liable to delays. Mr. Palmer's proposal was, to contract with the owners of the diligences and stage-coaches, which were established to every town of note in the kingdom, to carry the mails, with guards for their protection. This they were induced to do at a very low rate, from the additional recommendation to passengers, their carriages would thereby acquire, in point of security, regularity, and dispatch; and, notwithstanding the strong opposition to the measure, in its outset, experience has shown, that this combination of interests has been alike beneficial to the revenue, the correspondent, the passenger, and the coach-master.

Here is also the principal office of the Two-penny post, for the speedy conveyance of letters and small parcels, not exceeding four ounces in weight, within the metropolis, and a distance of ten miles round it; but, by the last regulation, letters delivered out of town, are charged three pence.

This useful method of circulating letters was projected by one David Murray, an upholder, in Paternoster-row, in the year 1683, who communicated the scheme to Mr. William Dockwra, who carried it on, for some time, with great success, till the government laid claim to it as connected, and partly interfering with the General Post-office, which was part of the crown revenue; it was, therefore, annexed to the General Post-office, and Dockwra was gratified with a pension of two hundred pounds a year, during his life.

The present establishment of the General Post-office, consists of two postmasters-general, a secretary, surveyor, comptroller-general, and a great number of clerks and assistants. There are fifty receiving-houses, for general post letters, and upwards of one hundred and fifty for two-penny post letters, in different parts of the metropolis.

CHAP. XI.

Of Billingsgate Ward.—-Bounds.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—-Billingsgate.—-St. Mary at Hill.—-Long Duration of a Corpse.—-Ancient Custom of the Fellowship Porters.—-St. Andrew Hubbard.-—King's Weigh-house.—Rood-lane.—-St. Margaret Pattens.—St. Gabriel Fenchurch.—-St. George, Botolph-lane.—St. Botolph, Billingsgate.—Butchers'-hall.

Billingsgate Ward is situated on the river side, and is bounded on the south by the Thames, on the east by Tower street ward, on the north by Langbourn-ward, and on the west by the ward of Bridge-within.

It is divided into twelve precincts, and is governed by an alderman, ten common-council-men, eleven constables, fourteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal streets in this ward are, part of Thames-street, Botolph-lane, St. Mary's hill, Rood-lane, and Pudding lane. The situation of this ward, near the river, the Custom house, and several wharfs, gives it great advantages in trade, and occasions it to be well inhabited, and in a continual hurry of business at the several quays and wharfs, on the south side of Thames-street. Of these, Billingsgate, from which the ward derives its name, is of most note; not so much for landing and loading of merchandize, as for being the only port for fish in London, and the greatest market for that article in England, and, perhaps, in the world. It is an extensive water gate, or port for small vessels, to which those laden with oranges, lemons, Spanish onions, and other commodities, resort, as well as the fishing boats. Here, also, is the port for the Gravesend boats to take in their fares; from whence they are obliged (under a penalty), to depart at the ringing of a bell, erected at the stairs for that purpose, which is rung for a quarter of an hour to give notice of the time of high water at London-bridge.

The earliest authentic notice of this place as a port or quay, is that quoted in vol. I. page 28, from Dr. Howell's History of the World, under the date of 979, about which time Ethelred made laws at Wantage for regulating the customs to be paid here. This was, for a considerable time, the most important place in the metropolis, for the landing of almost every article of commerce, after Queenhythe was forsaken; but it did not become a celebrated fish-market until the year 1699, when an act of parliament was passed for making it a free port for fish, which might be sold there every day in the week, Sunday excepted, and for permitting the resale of the fish so bought, in every part of the city.

Opposite to Billingsgate is the street called St. Mary's Hill, on the west side of which is the parish church of St. Mary, called, from its situation, St. Mary at Hill, or on the Hill. The date of the foundation of this church is equally uncertain with that of most of the churches in this city: the first circumstances met with concerning it, are that Rose de Wrytel founded a chantry in the church of St. Mary at Hill, in the year 1330, and that Richard de Hackney presented Nigellus Dalleye to this living in the year 1337. Stow, on the authority of Fabian, who was living at the time, relates a singular occurrence at the rebuilding of this church in 1497. He says, " In the year 1497, in the moneth of Aprill, as labourers digged for the foundation of a wall, within the church of St. Marie-hill, neare unto Belingsgate, they found a coffin of rotten timber, and therein the corps of a woman, whole of skinne, and of bones, undisevered, and the joynts of her arms plyable, without breaking the skynne, upon whose sepulchre this was engraven: ' Here lieth the bodies of Richard Hackney, fishmonger, and Alice his wife: the which Richard was sheriffe in the fifteenth of Edward II. (1323). Her bodie was kept above groundethree or four dayes without noysance, but then it waxed unsavorie, and so was againe buried."

Though this church was considerably injured by the fire in 1666, it did not require rebuilding, and was therefore repaired, after which the parish of St. Andrew Hubbard, the church of which was totally burnt, was united to it. It is a well proportioned Gothic structure of stone, consisting of a plain body enlightened by large windows, with a cupola in the middle, and a square tower, crowned with a handsome turret, at the end. The dimensions are, length ninety-six feet, breadth sixty feet, altitude, to the ceiling, twenty-six feet, to the centre of the cupola, thirty-eight feet, to the top of the turret, ninety-six feet.

It is a rectory, the advowson of which appears to have been always in lay hands; and, in 1638, was purchased by the parishioners, in whom it has ever since remained: but since the parish of St. Andrew Hubbard has been united to it, the Duke of Northumberland, who is patron of that parish, presents in turn.

Annually, on the Sunday after Midsummer-day, according to ancient custom, the fraternity of Fellowship-porters, of the city of London, repair to this church in the morning, where, during the reading of the Psalms, they reverently approach the altar, two and two, on the rails of which are placed two basons; and into these they put their respective offerings. They are generally followed by the congregation, and the money offered is distributed among the aged, poor, and infirm members of that fraternity.

The parish of St. Andrew Hubbard was a rectory, formerly called St. Andrew, Juxta Eastcheap, and was founded before 1389; in which year the Earl of Pembroke presented Robert Clayton to the rectory, in the room of Walter Palmer, deceased. On the death of the Earl of Pembroke, without issue, the patronage devolved to the Earls of Shrewsbury, in whose family it continued till 1460, when John, Earl of Shrewsbury, was killed, at the battle of Northampton, when it came to Edward IV. After this, it had divers patrons, till Algernon, Earl of Northumberland, presented Thomas Parker, who was burnt out in 1666.

After the fire, the ground on which this church stood, with the churchyard, in Little Eastcheap, between Botolph-lane, and Love-lane, and also the site of the parsonage house, were sold to the city of London, for public uses: some of the purchase-money was paid to the parish of St. Mary at Hill, towards the repairs of that church, and the remainder was appropriated to making a provision for the rector and his successors, in lieu of the parsonage-house. On one part of the ground was erected the King's weigh-house, which before stood on Cornhill. The original intent of this weigh-house was, to prevent frauds in the weight of merchandize brought from beyond sea. It was under the government of a master and four master porters, with labouring porters under them, who used to have carts and horses to fetch the merchants' goods to the beam, and to carry them back: but little has been done in this office of late years; as a compulsive power is wanting to oblige merchants to have their goods weighed.

At the south-east angle of Rood-lane, stands the parochial church of St. Margaret Pattens. This church received its name from its dedication to St. Margaret, virgin and martyr, and its situation, which, at the time of its foundation, was a lane, occupied only by makers and dealers in pattens. This lane, however, was afterwards called Rood-lane, on account of a rood, or cross, set up in the churchyard of St. Margaret, when the church was pulled down to be rebuilt. This cross, or rood, was blessed in a particular manner, and privileged by the Pope with many indulgences, for the pardon of the sins of those who came to pray before it, and to make their offerings towards the rebuilding of St. Margaret's church. But the church being finished in the year 1538, soon after the Reformation, some people unknown assembled, without noise, in the night of the 22d of May, in that year, who broke the rood to pieces, and demolished the tabernacle in which it was erected.

The old church was destroyed in 1666, after which the present one was immediately erected, and the parish of St. Gabriel Fenchurch was united to it. It is built part of stone, and part of brick, and consists of a plain body, sixty-six feet in length, fifty-two feet broad, and thirty-two feet in height. The windows are arched, with port-hole windows over them. Above the front door is a large Doric window, with a cherub's head, and a large festoon over it; and, above these is a pediment, which stretches from the steeple to the end of the church. The tower rises square to a considerable height, and is terminated by four plain pinnacles, crowned with balls, and a ballustrade, within which rises a very solid spire, terminated by a ball and vane.

The original foundation of this church was in, or before the year 1324; for the first rector upon record is Hamo de Chyrch, presented by Lady Margaret Nevil, on the 14th of June, in that year. And the patronage thereof remained in the family of the Nevils till the year 1392, when it came to Robert Rikeden, of Essex, and Margaret his wife; who, in 1408, conveyed it, by agreement, to Richard Whittington and other citizens of London, together with the advowson of St. Peter Cornhill, and the manor of Leadenhall, &c. which agreement the said Whittington and others confirmed, in 1411, to the mayor and commonalty of London; in whom the right of presentation has ever since remained.

The parish of St. Gabriel Fenchurch, which was annexed to this parish after the fire of London, is in Langbourn-ward. It was also a rectory, founded before the year 1321; when John Paynell appears to have been rector, and was dedicated to the angel Gabriel. The patronage of this rectory was in the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity, within Aldgate, until the suppression of their priory, when it devolved to the crown, in whom it still remains.

On the west side of Botolph-lane stands the parish church of St. George, Botolph-lane; which is so called from its situation, and being dedicated to St. George of Cappadocia, the patron of the English nation. It is an ancient rectory, Robert de Haliwell being rector in the year 1321; and was originally in the gift of the abbot and convent of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, at whose dissolution it came to the crown.

The old church was burnt down in 1666, soon after which the present edifice was erected. It is a neat small building of stone, enlightened with a single series of tall windows; and the steeple consists of a plain tower, ornamented with vases at the four corners. In length it is fifty-four feet, in breadth thirty-six feet, and its height, to the roof, is thirty-six feet; that of the steeple is eighty-four feet.

After the fire, the parish of St. Botolph, Billingsgate, was added to this parish. The church stood in Thames-street, opposite to Botolph-lane, which was named from it. It was also a rectory, the advowson of which was anciently in lay hands; but, in 1194, was claimed by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, under a deed of gift from one Odgarus, his sons, and the mother of Dionisia Bocumeter, who, with her husband, John, also claimed it. The dean and chapter, however, prevailed, and it continued in their gift till the church was annexed to that of St. George; since which time, the crown and the chapter present alternately.

In Pudding-lane, at the western extremity of this ward, stands Butcher's-hall, a small neat building, in which are three handsome rooms, wainscoted, and decorated with fret-work.

Watermans'-hall, which formerly stood in Cold-harbour, was removed into this ward, in the year 1786. Its present situation is on the west side of St. Mary's-hill. It is a neat building, partly of stone, and partly of brick. The principal entrance, which is at the south end, is through a rustic basement story, above which rises four pilasters, of the Ionic order, supporting a plain triangular pediment. Above the door, are the arms of the company.

CHAP. XII.

CHAP. XII.

Of Bridge Ward Within.——Extent.——Bounds.——Precincts.——Principal Streets.——St. Magnus.—St. Margaret, New Fish-street.——The Monument.——St. Bennet, Grasschurch.—St. Leonard, Eastcheap.—Fishmongers'-hall.

This ward takes its name from its situation and connection with the bridge, which, when it was covered with buildings, formed three of the precincts; for the ward begins at the south end of the bridge, and stretches, direct north, up Fish-street-hill and Gracechurch-street, as far as Lombard-street and Fenchurch-street, including all the bridge, the greatest part of the alleys and courts, on the east side, and all the alleys, courts, and lanes, on the west side of Thames-street, between Old Swan-lane, and Somer's-key, part of Michael's-lane, and part of Crooked-lane.

This ward is bounded on the south by Southwark and the river Thames; on the north by Langbourn-ward; on the east by Billingsgate-ward, and on the west by Candlewick and Dowgate-wards.

It is divided into fourteen precincts, and is governed by an alderman, fifteen common-councilmen, fifteen inquest-men, fourteen constables, and a beadle.

The principal streets in it are, Fish-street-hill, part of Gracechurch-street, Upper and Lower Thames-street, and Eastcheap.

In Thames-street, at the north-east corner of the bridge, stands the parish church of St. Magnus; so called from its dedication to St. Magnus, who suffered martyrdom in the city of Cesarea, under the

Emperor Aurelian, for his stedfast adherence to the Christian religion. It is a rectory, the patronage of which was anciently in the Abbots and Convents of Westminster and Bermondsey, who presented alternately, till the general suppression of monasteries, when it fell to the crown. In 1553, Queen Mary, by letters patent, granted it to the Bishop of London and his successors, in whom it still remains.

The date of the foundation of this church cannot be traced, but the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, built upon the bridge by Peter of Colechurch, before 1209, was in this parish.

The old church was destroyed by the fire in 1666, and when rebuilt, it was made the parochial church for this parish and that of St. Margaret, New Fish-street, which is annexed to it by an act of parliament; but part of the ground on which the old church stood was laid into the street for widening the passage.

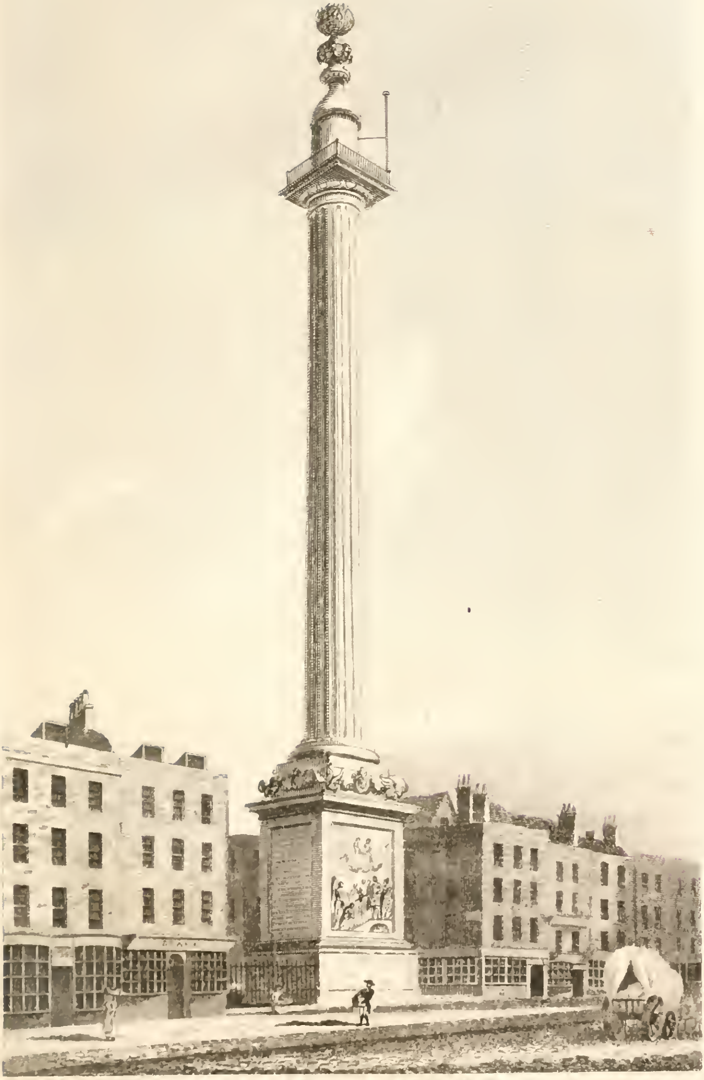
The body of the present structure was erected in the year 1676, but the steeple was not added till several years after. It is a spacious and massy stone building, plain, but well ornamented. The corners have rustic quoins, and the body is enlightened by tall arched windows, over each of which is a cornice supported by scrolls, and between these is a cherub over the center of each window. At the west end, on each side the door, rise coupled pilasters from a plain course, which support a pediment. The door on the north side is also placed under a pediment, but without the decorations of the other. The roof is hid by a kind of attic course, from which the tower rises square and plain; and from this the dial, which is richly ornamented, projects over the street. The course above this is adorned at the corners with coupled pilasters of the Ionic order, supporting an open work in the place of a balustrade, with large urns at the corners. From within this open work rises the lanthorn, which has also Ionic pilasters and arched windows in all the intercolumniations. The doom rests upon these pilasters; and on its crown is placed a piece of open work like that which surrounds the base of the lanthorn; on which is raised the turret that supports the vane. In this church is a peel of ten bells.

Before the fire the parochial church of St. Margaret stood on the east side of Fish-street-hill, which was formerly called New Fish-street, from the number of fishmongers who inhabited it. The patronage of this church, which was a rectory, was in the abbot and convent of Westminster, till the dissolution, when it fell to the king with the Abbey of Westminster; and was given by Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, to the Bishop of London and his successors, in whom it still continues. The first mention of this church is in 1328, before which time, Roger de Bredefeld and Edward de Hoseland had been rectors thereof.

On the site of this church, one of the noblest pieces of architecture in the world was erected, by an act of parliament, to commemorate the great and dreadful conflagration of the city in 1666. This bold and stately column, which is emphatically called the Monument, was begun by Sir Christopher Wren, in 1671, and finished by him in 1677, at an expense of fourteen thousand five hundred pounds.

It is a round fluted pillar of the Doric order, built of the best Portland stone, two hundred and two feet in height from the ground, the exact distance of the spot where the fire began. The diameter of the shaft or body of the column is fifteen feet; the ground plinth or lowest part of the pedestal is twenty-eight feet square; and the pedestal is forty feet in height. Over the capitol is an iron balcony, encom-

passing



Drawn & Engraved by [illegible] Poole, for Lambert's History of London

The Monument

[illegible]

passing a cone thirty-two feet high, supporting a blazing urn of gilt brass. In the place of this urn, which was set up contrary to Sir Christopher's opinion, was originally intended a colossal statue, in gilt brass, either of King Charles II. as founder of the new city, after the manner of the Roman pillars, which were terminated with the statues of their Cæsars; or else an erect figure of a woman, crowned with turrets, holding a sword and cap of maintenance, with other ensigns of the city's grandeur and re-edification.

Within is a large stair-case of black marble, containing three hundred and forty-five steps, each ten inches and a half broad, and six inches thick. The west side of the pedestal is adorned with curious emblems, by the masterly hand of Mr. Cibber, father of the poet-laureat, denoting the destruction and restoration of the city, in which the eleven principal figures are done in alto, and the rest in basso relievo. The first female figure represents the city of London, sitting among the ruins, in a languishing posture, with her head dejected, hair dishevelled, and her hand carelessly lying on her sword. Behind is Time, gradually raising her up: at her side a woman, representing Providence, gently touching her with one hand, and with a winged scepter in the other, directing her to regard the goddesses in the clouds, one with a cornucopia, denoting plenty, the other with a palm branch, the emblem of peace. At her feet a beehive, showing that by industry and application the greatest misfortunes are to be overcome. Behind Time are citizens exulting at his endeavours to restore her; and beneath, in the midst of the ruins, is a dragon, who, as supporter of the city arms, with his paw endeavours to preserve the same. Still farther at the north end is a view of the city in flames; the inhabitants in consternation, with their arms extended upwards, as crying out for succour. Opposite the city, on an elevated pavement, stands the king, in a Roman habit, with a laurel on his head, and a truncheon in his hand; and, approaching her, commands three of his attendants to descend to her relief; the first represents the sciences, with a winged head and circle of naked boys dancing thereon, holding Nature by the hand, with her numerous breasts ready to give assistance to all; the second is Architecture, with a plan in one hand, and a square and pair of compasses in the other: and the third is Liberty, waving a hat in the air, showing her joy at the pleasing prospect of the city's speedy recovery. Behind the king stands his brother, the Duke of York, with a garland in one hand to crown the rising city, and a sword in the other for her defence. The two figures behind are Justice and Fortitude; the former with a coronet, and the latter with a reined lion: and under the royal pavement, in a vault, lieth Envy, gnawing a heart, and incessantly emitting pestiferous fumes from her envenomed mouth. In the upper part of the plinth the reconstruction of the city is represented by builders and labourers at work upon houses.

On the other three facades of the plinth are Latin inscriptions; that on the north side is thus rendered: " In the year of Christ, 1666, September 2, eastward from hence, at the distance of two hundred and two feet (the height of this column), a terrible fire broke out about midnight; which, driven on by a high wind, not only wasted the adjacent parts, but also very remote places, with incredible noise and fury. It consumed eighty-nine churches, the city gates, Guildhall, many public structures, hospitals, schools, libraries, a vast number of stately edifices, thirteen thousand dwelling houses, and four hundred streets. Of the twenty-six wards it utterly destroyed fifteen, and left eight others shattered and half burnt. The ruins of the city were four hundred and thirty-six acres, from the Tower by the Thames side to the Temple church; and from the north-east along the wall to Holborn-bridge. To the estates and fortunes of the citizens it was merciless, but to their lives very favourable, that it might in all things resemble the last conflagration of the world. The destruction was sudden; for, in a small space of time, the city was seen most flourishing, and reduced to nothing. Three days after, when, in the opinion of all, this fatal fire had baffled all human counsels and endeavours, it stopped, as it were by a command from heaven, and was on every side extinguished."

The inscription on the south side is translated thus:

"Charles the Second, son of Charles the Martyr, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, a most gracious prince, commiserating the deplorable state of things, whilst the ruins were yet smoaking, provided for the comfort of his citizens, and ornament of his city, remitted their taxes, and referred the petition of the magistrates and inhabitants to parliament; who immediately passed an act, that public works should be restored to greater beauty with public money, to be raised by an impost on coals: that churches, and the cathedral of St. Paul's, should be rebuilt from their foundations with all magnificence; that the bridges, gates, and prisons, should be new made, and sewers cleansed, the streets made straight and regular; such as were steep, levelled, and those too narrow to be made wider; and that the markets and shambles should be removed to separate places. They also enacted, that every house should be built with party-walls, and all in front raised of equal height, and those walls all of squared stone or brick; and that no man should delay building beyond the space of seven years. Moreover, care was taken, by law, to prevent all suits about their bounds. Also, anniversary prayers were enjoined; and, to perpetuate the memory hereof to posterity, they caused this column to be erected. The work was carried on with diligence, and London is restored, but whether with greater speed or beauty, may be made a question. At three years' time, the world saw that finished, which was supposed to be the business of an age."

The inscription on the east side is in English, thus:

"This pillar was begun,
Sir Richard Ford, Knight, being lord mayor of London, in the year 1671.
Carried on in the mayoralties of
Sir George Waterman, Knt.
Sir Robert Hanson, Knt.
Sir William Hooker, Knt. } lord mayors.
Sir Robert Viner, Knt.
Sir Joseph Sheldon, Knt.
And finished,
Sir Thomas Davies being lord mayor, in the year 1677."

The prevailing opinion of the citizens of London, and of the generality of protestants, of all denominations, after this terrible devastation, was, that it had been occasioned by the contrivances of the papists; for which reason, the following inscription was engraved round the pedestal.

"This pillar was set up in perpetual remembrance of the most dreadful burning of this protestant city, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction, in the beginning of September, in the year of our Lord, 1666, in order to the carrying on their horrid plot for extirpating the protestant religion, and old English liberty, and introducing popery and slavery."

This inscription was expunged in the time of James II. but was restored in the next reign.

The cornice of the pedestal is adorned with the king's arms, the sword, mace, cap of maintenance, &c. enriched with trophies; and at each angle are winged dragons, the supporters of the city arms.

This monument is, undoubtedly, the noblest modern column in the world, and, in some respects, may vie with the most celebrated ones of antiquity. In height, it greatly exceeds the pillars of the Emperor's Trajan and Antoninus, the stately remains of Roman grandeur, as well as that of Theodosius, at Constantinople; for the largest of the Roman columns, which was that of Antoninus, was only one hundred and seventy-two feet and an half in height, and twelve feet three inches in diameter, English measure.

At the south-west corner of Fenchurch-street, stands the parochial church of St. Bennet, Grass-church; so called from its dedication to St. Benedict, or Bennet, and its vicinity to the Grass-market, which was anciently held before its west door. It is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have remained in the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, ever since the year 1190.

The old church was destroyed by the fire of London; since which it has been rebuilt, and made the parochial church for this parish, and that of St. Leonard, Eastcheap. It is built principally of stone, and is a regular, convenient, and neat edifice, sixty feet in length, thirty feet in breadth, and thirty-two feet in height, and the altitude of the spire is one hundred and forty-nine feet. It has a handsome balustrade at the top, and a very high spire, of the obelisk kind, the base of which is supported by four porticoes. The inside is wainscoted, and handsomely pewed; the pulpit well veneered, carved, and adorned with cherubs, &c. Here is also a curious font of fine carved work.

The church of St. Leonard, Eastcheap, was burnt down in 1666, and never rebuilt. It was dedicated to Leonard, a French saint, and Bishop of Limoges, and was some time named St. Leonard Milk-church, from William Melker, the builder thereof.

The patronage of this rectory, which was anciently in the prior and convent of Canterbury, is at present in the Dean and Chapter of that see; who, since its union with St. Bennet, Grasschurch, present alternately with the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. The site of it is now only a burial place for the inhabitants of this parish. It is one of the thirteen peculiars belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

At a small distance from the bridge, on the west side of this ward, fronting the Thames, is Fishmongers'-hall, a very handsome building, erected since the destruction of the old hall, by the great fire, and commanding a fine view of the river and the bridge.

The front entrance to this hall is from Thames-street, by a passage that leads into a large square court, paved with flat stones, and encompassed by the great hall, the court-room for the assistants, and other grand apartments, with galleries. These are of an handsome construction, and are supported by Ionic columns, with an arcade. The back front, or that next the Thames, has a grand double flight of stone steps, which lead to the first apartments from the wharf. The door is adorned with Ionic columns, and these support an open pediment, in which is a shield, with the arms of the company. The windows are ornamented with stone cases, and the quoins of the building are wrought with a handsome rustic.

In the great hall is a wooden statue of Sir William Walworth, armed with his dagger; and also another of St. Peter: the former belonged to this company, and the latter is, with great propriety, adopted as its patron saint. In the court-room are several pictures of the various species of sea and river fishes: and the arms of the benefactors to the company are emblazoned in painted glass in the different windows.

CHAP. XIII.

Of Candlewick-street Ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.--Principal Streets.—Great Eastcheap.—Boar's-head Tavern. St. Michael, Crooked-lane.—St. Clement, Eastcheap.—St. Martin Orgar.—St. Mary Abchurch.—St. Lawrence Pounteney.

This ward takes its name from the street now called Cannon-street, but formerly Candlewick, or Candlewright-street, from being principally inhabited by candlewrights, or makers of tallow and wax candles. It is bounded on the east by Bridge-ward; on the south by Bridge and Dowgate wards; on the west by Dowgate and Wallbrook wards, and on the north by Langbourn-ward.

Though it is but a small ward, it is divided into seven precincts, and is governed by an alderman, eight common-council-men, seven constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal streets in this ward are, Great Eastcheap, and the west end of Cannon-street: the remainder of it consists of courts, alleys, and parts of some considerable lanes.

Great Eastcheap begins at the top of Fish-street-hill, and runs westward to the end of Clement's-lane, where Cannon-street begins; and took its name, originally, from a market kept there, to serve the east part of the city; which market was removed to Leadenhall-square; and by the early account we have of Eastcheap-market, and its vicinity to the ferry, or Roman trajectus, over the Thames, we have great reason to suppose this to be the first, or one of the first markets in London, even of a Roman date. In which state it continued for many ages, especially for victuals: as may be collected from the song called London Lickpenny, made by Lydgate the poet, in the reign of King Henry V. who, in the person of a countryman, coming to London, and walking through the city, says, "In Westcheap I was called on to buy fine lawn, Paris thread, cotton, umble, and other linen clothes, and such like. (but not a word of silks). In Cornhill to buy old apparel and household stuff. In Candlewright-street, the drapers proferred me cheap cloth. In Eastcheap, the cooks cried, hot ribs of beef roasted, pies well baked, and other victuals. There was clattering of pots, harp, pipe, and sawtrie; yea by cock, nay by cock, for other greater oaths were spared. Some sang of Jenkin and Julian, &c. all which melody liked the passenger; but he wanted money to abide by it, and therefore gat him into a Gravesend barge, and home into Kent."

Here stood the Boar's head Tavern, immortalized by Shakespeare as the scene of the frolicsome exploits of Sir John Falstaff and the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry V. But the mirth of these celebrated guests was not always confined within due limits; nor was the heir apparent the only one of the blood-royal who indulged in such excesses. His brothers John and Thomas being here at supper, on St. John's eve, in the year 1410, raised such a riot in the street, between two and three o'clock in the morning, that the mayor and sheriffs were called up to quell it. This the princes took as an insult to their dignity. The magistrates were summoned before the king by the celebrated Chief Justice Gascoyne, but they stood on their defence and were honourably dismissed, it being proved that they had done no more than their duty, for the maintenance of the peace.

The site of this tavern is now covered by modern buildings, but the memory of it is preserved by a carving of a boar's head in the front of one of the houses; and on the opposite side of the street, is that of a mermaid, probably the sign of another tavern.

On the south side of Eastcheap, is St. Michael's-lane, in which stands the church of St. Michael, Crooked-lane, so called from its dedication to St. Michael the Arch-angel, and its situation at the corner of Crooked-lane.

This church is of ancient foundation, John de Borham appearing to have been rector thereof in the year 1304, at which time it was a very ordinary small building, and stood amidst lay-stalls and slaughter-grounds used by the butchers of East-cheap-market. But, in 1366, John Loveken or Loufken, four times Lord Mayor of London, obtained a grant of the ground where the lay-stalls were, and built a handsome and capacious church thereon. This church received considerable additions from Sir William Walworth, lord mayor, in the year 1374, and formerly servant to Loveken. He likewise founded a college for a master and nine priests; settled his own new-built house, adjoining to the church, for a habitation of the said master and chaplains, or priests for ever, and was buried in the north chapel by the choir.

This church, however, being entirely destroyed by the great conflagration in 1666, the present edifice arose in its stead. It is a plain structure built with stone, and enlightened by a series of large arched windows. The Tower, which is at the west end, is carried square to a considerable height, and the uppermost window in the center of each face, is ornamented with a head, and handsome festoons; from hence, instead of a balustrade, is a range of open work of the Gothic kind, with vases at the corners. From within this part the tower rises circular, diminishing in three stages, with an open buttress rising from each corner of the square tower to the top of the first stage: from this buttress rises a large scroll, wich extends to the top of the second, and a smaller to the top of the third stage, above which rises a short round spire of a peculiar kind, swelling out at the bottom, and then rounding off to a small height, where it is terminated by a gilt ball and vane. The length of this church is seventy-eight feet, its breadth forty-six feet, height, to the roof, thirty-two feet, and to the top of the pinnacle, one hundred feet.

The patronage was anciently in the prior and convent of Canterbury, in whom it continued till the year 1408; since which time, it has been in the archbishops, and is one of the thirteen peculiars in the city, belonging to that see.

In Clement's-lane, at the western extremity of Eastcheap, stands the parish church of St. Clement, Eastcheap.

This church was dedicated to St. Clement, disciple of St. Peter, the Apostle, who was ordained Bishop of Rome, in the year 93; and it received the addition of Eastcheap from its situation, and to distinguish it from other churches dedicated to the same saint. The date of its foundation is lost; but William de Southlee appears to have been rector of it prior to the year 1309; and, before the suppression of religious houses, it was in the gift of the abbot and convent of St. Peter's, Westminster. But, in the first year of her reign, Queen Mary gave the advowson thereof to the Bishop of London, whose successors have continued patrons of it from that time to the present.

The old church was burnt down in 1666, and the present building was erected in 1686. It is a neat, though plain, structure, of the Composite order, having a square tower, finished with a ballustrade round the top. The length of this church is sixty-four feet, its breadth forty feet, the height of the roof thirty-four feet, and that of the tower eighty-eight feet. It is a rectory, and the living was considerably augmented by the parish of St. Martin Orgar being annexed to it.

The church of St. Martin Orgar stood on the east side of St. Martin's-lane, near Cannon-street, and was so denominated from its dedication to St. Martin, and from Ordgarus, who was supposed to be the founder of it. It was also a rectory, the patronage of which was granted by Ordgarus, with the consent of his wife and sons, to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, about the year 1181, in whom it still remains; and since the union of this parish to that of St. Clement, they present alternately with the Bishop of London.

The remains of this church being found capable of repair, after the fire in 1666, a body of French protestants, in communion with the church of England, obtained a lease of the tower and ruinous nave, from the minister and churchwardens, which being confirmed by parliament, they repaired it, and converted it into a place of worship for their own use.

Near the south end of Abchurch-lane, which is on the opposite side of Cannon-street, stands the parish church of St. Mary, Abchurch; so called from its dedication to the Virgin Mary; the additional epithet of Ab, or Up-church being given to it.

It appears that a church, dedicated to St. Mary, has stood upon this spot from very early times; and we find, that, in the year 1448, the patronage of it was in the prior and canons of St. Mary Overy's; but coming to the crown, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, her majesty granted the perpetual advowson to Corpus Christi College, in Cambridge, in whom it still remains.

The old church was destroyed by the fire of London, soon after which the present building was erected. It is built of brick, strengthened with rustic quoins of stone at the corners, with three windows on each side; the middle window rising higher, and taking up the space above, while the others, which are smaller, have round windows over them: the window and door-cases are also of stone. The tower is square, the corners of which are strengthened in the same manner as the body; and in the centre of each square is a window, ornamented like the rest. From the tower rises a dome, on the summit of which stands a plain spire, supported by a lantern base. The altar-piece, which is very curiously carved, is deserving of notice. The length of the church is sixty-three feet, its breadth sixty feet, the height of the roof fifty-one feet, and that of the steeple one hundred and forty feet.

After the fire, the parish of St. Lawrence Pounteney was annexed to this parish, the church of the former not being rebuilt. It was situated on the west side of Lawrence Pounteney-lane, and took the addition of Pounteney from its great benefactor, Sir John Pounteney, lord mayor in the years 1312, 1330, 1331, and 1333, who founded a college of Jesus and Corpus Christi, in the ancient church, for a master, warden, thirteen priests, and four choristers; which was confirmed by Edward III. in the year 1316.

The patronage of this church and college was in its own chaplains, until the dissolution of the college, when it came to the crown; and was granted, by Queen Elizabeth, to Edward Dorening and Roger Rant, to be held of her and her successors, as an appendage of the manor of East Greenwich, paying a fee-farm rent of four pounds six shillings and nine pence a year to the crown, and ten pounds, annually, to a stipendiary priest, serving cure there. Soon after this, the parishioners purchased the grant, for one hundred and forty pounds, by which means they obtained the advowson, which has continued in them ever since. The site of the old church is now used as a cemetery for the inhabitants of this parish.

CHAP. XIV.

Of Wallbrook Ward.—-Bounds.—-Precincts.—-Principal Streets.—-The Mansion-house.—-Stock's-market.—-St. Stephen, Wallbrook.—-Wallbrook-house.—St. Swithin.—London-stone.—St. Mary, Bothaw.—Salters'-hall.

THIS ward takes it name from a street in it, which runs from the south-west corner of the mansion-house towards the Thames. The name of this street was derived from a rivulet, which took its rise to the north of Moorfields, and was called Wallbrook, on account of its entering the city through the wall, between Bishopsgate and Moorgate. After many turnings and windings, it directed its course down this street, and emptied itself into the Thames, to the west of Dowgate. Anciently, this stream was open, and had several bridges over, which were kept in repair by certain religious houses, or by individuals; but it has been long arched, and built upon, so that its subterraneous course is, at this time, but very little known.

It is bounded on the east by Langbourn and Candlewick-street-wards; on the north by Cheap-ward, on the west by Cordwainers'-ward, and on the south by Dowgate-ward. It is divided into seven precincts, and is governed by an alderman, eight common-council-men, seven constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal streets and lanes are, Wallbrook, Bucklersbury, Budge-row, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street, Bearbinder-lane, St. Swithin's-lane, and the west end of Lombard-street.

The most distinguished building in this ward is the Mansion-house of the lord mayor, a building of considerable magnificence, though, from its confined and low situation, it has an appearance of heaviness, which, on an elevated spot, in an area proportionate to its magnitude, it would be free from. It is substantially built of Portland-stone, and has a portico of six lofty columns, of the Corinthian order, in the front, the pilasters under the pediment, and on each side, being of the same order. The basement story is very massy, and built in rustic. In the centre of this story, is the entrance to the kitchen, cellars, and other offices; and on each side rises a flight of steps, of very considerable extent, leading up to the portico, in the middle of which is the door that opens to the apartments and offices where business is transacted. The stone balustrade of the stairs is continued along the front of the portico, and the columns, which are wrought in the proportions of Palladio, support a large angular pediment, adorned with a very noble piece of sculpture, representing the dignity and opulence of the city of London; finely designed, and well executed by Mr. Taylor.

The principal figure represents the genius of the city, in the dress of the goddess Cybele, cloathed with the imperial robe, alluding to her being the capital of this kingdom, with a crown of turrets on her head; holding the prætorian wand in her right hand, and leaning with her left on the city arms. She is placed between two pillars, or columns, to express the stability of her condition; and on her right hand stands a naked boy, with the fasces and axe in one hand, and the sword, with the cap of liberty upon it, in the other, to show, that authority and justice are the true supports of liberty, and that, while the former are exerted with vigour, the latter will continue in a state of youth. At her feet lies a figure, representing Faction, as it were in agony, with snakes twining round his head; intimating, that the exact government of this city, not only preserves herself, but retorts just punishment on such as envy her happy condition. In the group, farther to the right, the chief figure represents an ancient river-god, his head crowned with flags and rushes, his beard long, a rudder in his right hand, and his left arm leaning on an urn, which pours forth a copious stream; the swan, at his feet, shows this to be the Thames: the ship, behind, and the anchor and cable below him, very emphatically express the mighty tribute of riches paid by the commerce of this river to the city to which it belongs. On the left hand there appears the figure of a beautiful woman, in an humble posture, presenting an ornament of pearls with one hand, and pouring out a mixed variety of riches from a cornucopia, or horn of plenty, with the other; signifying the abundance which flows from the union of domestic industry and foreign trade. Behind her is a stork, and two naked boys, playing with each other, and holding the neck of the stork, to signify that piety, brotherly love, and mutual affection, produce and secure that vast stock of wealth, of various kinds, which appears near them in bales, bags, and hogsheads; so that every thing in this piece is not barely beautiful and ornamental, but, at the same time, instructively expressive of the happy condition of that great city, for the residence of whose chief magistrate this noble building was erected.

Beneath this portico are two series of windows, which extend along the whole front; and above these is an attic story with square windows, crowned with a balustrade.

The building is much deeper than it is wide; it has an area in the middle, and at the farthest end is an Egyptian hall, which is the length of the front, very lofty, and designed for public entertainments. Near the ends, at each side is a window of extraordinary height, placed between coupled Corinthian pilasters, and extending to the top of the attic story.

The inside apartments and offices are exceeding noble, and elegantly furnished. On the west side of the building is a commodious door for the admittance of private company; and on the east side is the entrance to the Justice-room. The greatest inconvenience which attends this edifice arises from its being so crowded with houses, especially on the sides, that the rooms are dark; and even in the front there is not a sufficient area to enlighten the building. Notwithstanding this imperfection, it is certainly a very noble structure, and well calculated for the discharge of that business, and the dignity of that magistrate for whom it was erected.

The whole expense of building the Mansion-house (including the sum of three thousand nine hundred pounds, paid for purchasing houses to be pulled down) amounted to forty-two thousand six hundred and thirty-eight pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence.

Stock's Market, on the site of which the Mansion-house was erected, was built in the year 1282, by Henry Wallis, the mayor, on a void space to the north of St. Mary, Woolchurch, where formerly had stood a pair of stocks for the punishment of offenders; and the rents of the houses were appropriated to the maintenance of London-bridge. This place, which was appointed to be a market for fish and flesh, took its name from the stocks, and in the year 1322, it was ordained that none should sell fish or flesh out of this and the other markets, upon pain of forfeiting the articles exposed to sale for the first offence; and of losing their freedom for the second.

In this market stood the famous equestrian statue, set up in honour of King Charles II. by Sir Robert Vyner, lord mayor in 1675. His lordship, in his haste to exhibit this testimony of his loyalty, found a statue of John Sobieski, King of Poland, trampling on a Turk, ready cast at a founders; and, disregarding the incongruity of the costume, he christened the Pole by the name of Charles II. and the prostrate Turk, by that of Oliver Cromwell; and thus new named, it arose on this spot, in honour of his sovereign.

At a small distance from the south end of the Mansion-house, and on the east side of Wallbrook, stands the parish church of St. Stephen, Wallbrook, which owes its name to its dedication to St. Stephen, the Protomartyr, and its situation. It appears by ancient records that a church dedicated to the same patron, was situated near this spot, but on the opposite side of the stream, prior to the year 1135, when it was given to the monastery of St. John in Colchester, by Eudo, Sewer to Henry I. How long the patronage was possessed by this fraternity, or for what consideration they parted with it does not appear; but in 1428, it belonged to John Duke of Bedford; in which year Robert Chichely, Mayor, gave a plot of ground on the east side of the water course, two hundred and eight feet and a half in length, and sixty-six in breadth, to the parish of St. Stephen, to build a new church thereon, and for a church-yard: and in the following year he laid the first stone of the building for himself, and the second for William Stondon, a former mayor, deceased, who left money for the purchase of the ground, and towards the charge of the building; the remainder being supplied by Chichely.

Robert Whittington, Draper, afterwards made a knight of the bath, purchased the advowson of this rectory from the Duke of Bedford, in 1432. From him it passed into the family of Lee, two of whom of the name of Richard, supposed to be father and son, the former being a knight and the latter an esquire, served the office of mayor in 1460 and 1469. The last of these presented to it in 1474, after which he gave it to the Grocers' Company, in whom it still remains.

The old church being destroyed by the fire of London, the present edifice was erected in its stead, by Sir Christopher Wren; and is considered by many to be the master-piece of that great architect: it is even asserted that Italy cannot produce any modern structure equal to this in taste, proportion, elegance and beauty.

It is a noble structure of stone, but its external beauties are hid from the sight by the adjacent buildings, except the steeple, which is square to a considerable height, and is then surrounded with a balustrade, within which rises a very light and elegant tower in two stages; the first adorned with Corinthian, and the second with Composite columns; and covered with a dome, from which rises a vane.

The principal beauties of this church are, however, within; where the dome, which is spacious and noble, is finely proportioned to the church, and divided into small compartments elegantly decorated, and crowned with a lantern; the roof, which is also divided into compartments, is supported by very noble Corinthian columns, raised on their pedestals. It has three aisles, and a cross aisle; is seventy-five feet long, thirty-six feet broad, thirty-four feet high to the roof, and fifty-eight feet to the lantern. On the sides under the lower roof are circular windows, but those which enlighten the upper roof are small arched ones. Over the altar, at the east end, is a large beautiful painting of the Stoning of St. Stephen, which was presented by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, and put up in the month of September, 1776. The painting and frame together cost seven hundred guineas. The christening font is of fine white marble, curiously carved.

After the fire of London, the new church of St. Stephen was made the parochial church of this parish and that of St. Bennet, Sherehog, in Cheap ward, the church of which was not rebuilt.

Adjoining to the church-yard of St. Stephen, is Wallbrook-house, the old Mansion-house of the family of Pollexfen, which sharing the common fate of the general conflagration in 1666, was rebuilt in the following year by Sir Henry Pollexfen, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in the reign of Charles II. It stands on lofty brick arches, of exquisite workmanship and great antiquity; and may be reasonably supposed to stand on the site of some religious house formerly dedicated to St. Stephen. It is an elegant brick building, of the Corinthian order, with double windows. Nothing of the ancient grandeur of the house remains in the inside but the mouldings and a beautiful carved stair-case.

At the south-west angle of St. Swithin's-lane, in Cannon-street, stands the parish church of St. Swithin. This church is so called from its being dedicated to St. Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, and chancellor to King Egbert, who died in the year 806. By ancient records it appears that there was a church on this spot, dedicated to the same saint, before the year 1331; but how long it was standing before that time is uncertain: however, the old structure was destroyed by the fire of London, and the present edifice erected in its stead.

This is a plain, solid and strong building of stone, sixty-one feet long, and forty-two broad; the roof is forty feet, and the steeple one hundred and fifty feet high. The body is well enlightened, and the windows are arched and well proportioned.

The

The patronage of this church appears to have been anciently in the prior and convent of Tortington, in the diocese of Chichester, in whom it continued till the dissolution of their monastery; when coming to the crown, Henry VIII. in the year 1540, granted the same, together with a stately mansion, on the north side thereof, where Oxford-court now stands, to John Earl of Oxford, who soon after disposing of the same, it passed through several hands, and was, at length, purchased by the company of Salters, in whom the patronage still remains.

Against the south wall of St. Swithin's church is placed the famous old stone, called London-stone. This stone was much worn away before the fire of London; but it is now cased over with a new stone, cut hollow, so that the old one may be seen.

This stone, which has been carefully preserved for many ages, is of great antiquity, as appears from its being mentioned by the same name, so early as in the time of Ethelstan, King of the West Saxons. It formerly stood nearer the channel opposite the same place; and, being fixed upright in the ground, was so well fastened with bars of iron, that it was perfectly secured from receiving any damage by carriages.

The antiquity of this stone cannot be traced; but, from the most reasonable conjecture, it is supposed to be of Roman origin; for, as the ancient Roman colony extended, from the river Thames, no higher than Cheapside, and Watling-street was the principal street, or Prætorian way, it has been supposed, with great probability, that this stone was the centre, from whence they measured the distances to their several stations throughout England, more especially as these distances coincide very exactly.

Some of our forefathers were of opinion, that it was set up in signification of the city's devotion towards

Christ, and of his care and protection of the city, under the type of a stone, on which it was founded, and, by his favour, so long preserved. This is the idea which prevails in these lines of Fabian, in praise of London:

> It is so sure a stone that that is upon sette,
> For though some have it thrette
> With Manases grym and grette
> Yet hurte had it none:
> Chryste is the very stone
> That the citie is set uppon,
> Which from al hys foone
> Hath ever preserved yt.

Another conjecture is, that as this street was anciently the principal one in the city, as Cheapside is at present, London-stone might have been the place where public proclamations and notices were given to the citizens. This conjecture has, indeed, some argument to support it; for, in the year 1450, when Jack Cade, the Kentish rebel, came through Southwark into London, he marched to this stone, where was a great concourse of people, among whom was the lord mayor. On this stone Jack Cade struck his sword, and said, "Now is Mortimer lord of this city."

It is also said, that this stone was set up for the tendering and making of payments by debtors to their creditors, at their appointed days, till, in after-times, they were usually made at the font, in St. Paul's church, or the Royal Exchange.

These, however, are but conjectures; nor can we say more, than that it is very singular, so much care should have been taken to preserve the stone, and so little to preserve the history of its origin.

To the parish of St. Swithin is annexed that of St. Mary Bothaw, the church of which stood, before the fire of London, on the east side of Turnwheel-lane, between London-stone and Wallbrook-corner, near

Dowgate-hill. This church took its additional name from its vicinity to a boat-haw, or boat-builder's-yard, in that neighbourhood, and was of great antiquity; for, in the year 1167, Wibert, the prior, and the convent of Christ-church, in Canterbury, granted certain lands and houses, on the north side of it, to one Ernis, and his heirs, in consideration of an annual payment of ten shillings in money, a towel, of the value of eight pence, two pitchers, at six pieces of money, and a salt-seller at four; which were to be delivered to the prior's steward, for the use of his house.

The patronage of this rectory, which is one of the thirteen peculiars of the see of Canterbury, was retained by the convent of Christ-church, until their suppression, when it came to the Dean and Chapter of that see, in whom it has ever since remained; and they present alternately with the Salters' company.

Behind St. Swithin's church is Salters'-hall, the chief entrance of which is out of Swithin's-lane. It is a plain brick building, a part of which is let out for a place of worship, to a congregation of Presbyterians.

In this hall are portraits of several of the kings of England, and a remarkable fine one of Sir Christopher Wren, as large as life.

CHAP. XV.

Of Dowgate Ward.—-Bounds.—-Precincts.—-Extent.—Principal Streets.—-Ebgate.—-Cold Harbour.-—Allhallows the Great.-—Allhallows the Less.—-The Steelyard.—Joiners' Hall.—Innholders' Hall.—Dyers' Hall.—-Skinners' Hall.—Tallow-chandlers' Hall.—Plumbers' Hall.-—Roman Antiquities.—-Merchant Taylors' School.

DOWGATE-WARD received its name from an ancient gate, in the original wall that run along the north side of the Thames, which was called the Dowr, or Water-gate, and was situated on the spot where the Roman trajectus, or ferry, passed.

This ward is bounded on the east by Candlewick and Bridge wards, on the north by Wallbrook-ward, on the west by Vintry-ward, and on the south by the river Thames. It is divided into eight precincts, and is under the government of one alderman, eight common-council-men, eight constables, fifteen inquest men, and a beadle.

It extends from Martin's-lane, in the east, to Cloak-lane, in the west, and from Cannon-street, in the north, to the Thames, in the south, nearly in the form of a square; within which tract are contained, Dowgate-hill and dock, the Steel-yard, St. Lawrence Pounteney-hill, Duxford, now Duck's-foot-lane, Suffolk-lane, Bush-lane, Chequer-yard, and Cloak-lane.

At the eastern extremity of this ward, on the riverside, is Old Swan-lane and Stairs, the ancient Ebgate.

West from this is Cold Harbour, a narrow lane, consisting principally of warehouses, but formerly the site of a magnificent mansion, of which mention is made so early as the 13th of Edward II. when it was let by the name of the Cold Harbrough (or Inn), in the parish of All Saints, ad fænum. This afterwards became the property of Sir John Pounteney, and took the name of Pounteney's-inn, and was by him sold to Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. In 1397, John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and Earl of Huntingdon, lodged here, and gave a sumptuous entertainment in it, to his brother-in-law, King Richard II. Passing through various hands, it became the residence of Cuthbert Tonstal, Bishop of Durham, when Henry VIII. took Durham-house, near Charing-cross, into his own hands. The bishop enjoyed this house until the year 1553, when, being deposed from his bishopric, it was also taken from him, and given by Edward VI. a few days before his death, to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who changed its name to Shrewsbury-house. At the bottom of this lane, fronting the Thames, was situated Watermans'-hall, which is now removed to St. Mary's hill, in Billingsgate-ward.

Proceeding westward, at the north-east corner of Allhallows-lane, stands the parochial church of Allhallows the Great.

This church, which is dedicated to All Saints, was originally called Allhallows ad Fœnum, in the Ropery, from its vicinity to a hay-wharf, and its situation among ropemakers; and Allhallows the More, to distinguish it from another church, which stood a little to the east of it, and was called Allhallows the Less; but being both destroyed by the fire in 1666, the latter was not rebuilt, and the two parishes were united.

The church of Allhallows the Great was founded by the noble family of the Despencers, who presented to it in the year 1361; from whom it passed to the Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, and at last to the crown. In 1546, Henry VIII. gave this church to

Thomas

Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, in whose successors it has continued to the present time. It is a rectory, and one of the thirteen peculiars, in London, belonging to the see of Canterbury. The present edifice was finished in 1683. It was planned by Sir Christopher Wren, but not executed with the same accuracy that was designed. It is eighty-seven feet long, sixty feet broad, and thirty-three feet high, to the roof, built of stone, strong and solid. The walls are plain and massy, the ornaments few and simple, and the windows very large. The tower is plain, square, and divided into five stages, terminating square and plain, without spire, turret, or pinnacle. The cornice is supported by scrolls, and over these rises a balustrade, of solid construction, suitable to the rest of the building.

Allhallows the Less, which was also called Allhallows on the Cellars, or, super Cellarium, because it stood above vaults, let out for cellars, was also a rectory, the advowson of which was in the Bishop of Winchester, until the college of St. Lawrence Pounteney was founded, when Sir John Pounteney purchased it, and rebuilt the church, which he appropriated to his college; by which means it became a donative, or curacy.

At the general suppression of religious houses, by Henry VIII. this church came to the crown, and in the year 1577, Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Verle, for a term of twenty-one years. In the second year of his reign, her successor, James I. sold it to Richard Blake, and others, and their heirs or assigns, in free soccage, for ever; since which time it has remained in private hands.

At a short distance from Allhallows church is the Steel-yard, the wharf originally allotted to the Anseatic merchants, for landing and storing up their goods. This was the great repository of the wheat and other grain, the cables, masts, tar, hemp, flax, linen cloths, wax, steel, and other merchandize, imported by the Easterlings; and on this spot stood the Guildhalda Teutonicorum, or Guildhall of the Germans. They called it Staple-hoff, or, House of General Trade; from the contraction of which name, to Stael-hoff, our appellation, Steel-yard is derived, and not from the steel landed here, which was but a single article of their very extensive commerce. The importance of their trade was such as to procure them great privileges; among others, the being free from all subsidies to the king, and also of having an alderman of London to be their judge in case of disputes.

But as the inestimable advantages of commerce became better understood, the impolicy of suffering foreigners to command our markets, was too striking to be overlooked; and, on the one hand, the privileges enjoyed by these people, were gradually abridged, while, on the other, every facility was given to the formation of commercial societies of natives, by which means the profits of their trade were, in time, diverted into English hands, and, consequently, Englishmen became the holders of the provisions and naval stores, which had compelled our dependance upon them. At length, in 1597, their house was finally shut up, and its inhabitants expelled the kingdom.

The Steel-yard is now the great repository of the imported bar-iron, which supplies our metropolis with that necessary article; and the yards and warehouses are filled with an immense quantity of it.

Nearly at the western extremity of this ward, in a lane, formerly called Friars'-lane, but now Joiners'-hall-buildings, is the hall of the Joiners' company.

This building is remarkable for a magnificent skreen at the entrance into the hall-room, having demisavages, and a variety of other enrichments, curiously carved in wainscot. The great parlour is beautifully pannelled with cedar.

On the north side of Thames-street, a little east from Joiners'-hall-buildings, is Great Elbow-lane, in which is a very handsome and convenient hall, belonging to the company of Innholders.

At a small distance from this hall, in Little Elbow-lane, is another neat building, used as a hall by the Dyers' company. Their hall, which was formerly situated near Old Swan-lane, in Thames-street, being destroyed by the conflagration in 1666, and a number of warehouses erected in its place, the company have converted this house into a hall to transact their affairs in.

On the west side of Dowgate-hill is Skinners'-hall, a very handsome edifice, built with bricks of different colours: the hall-room is elegantly wainscoted with oak, and the great parlour is pannelled with cedar. The entrance to this building is through an arched door-way, in a modern stone-fronted building, in which are the offices for the clerk and other persons belonging to the company. In the beginning of the last century, the East India Company had the use of this hall, for which they paid the company three hundred pounds per annum.

At a small distance from this hall, but further to the north, stands Tallow-chandlers'-hall, a very handsome and spacious building, adorned with friezes, formed with columns and arches of the Tuscan order.

Opposite to Skinners'-hall is Chequer-yard, which runs into Bush-lane. It is principally occupied with warehouses and stables; and at the north-east angle is Plumbers'-hall, a small but convenient building.

In digging foundations for the houses in Scott's-yard, Bush-lane, after the fire in 1666, a tesselated pavement, and the remains of a large hall, were discovered at the depth of twenty feet: the former was believed to have been the pavement of the Roman governors' palace, and the hall a court of justice, supposed to have been destroyed in the great conflagration made by Queen Boadicea. These buildings seemed to have been situated close to the river, and near the trajectus, or ferry; for without the south wall were four holes in the ground, full of wood coals, which might be the remains of the piles that had been placed there for the support of the city wall.

From Bush-lane there is a passage into Suffolk-lane, on the east side of which stands Merchant Taylors' school.

This school was founded by the company of Merchant Taylors, in the year 1651, for the education of boys. It was anciently kept in a house, which belonged to the Duke of Buckingham, and was called the Manor of the Rose; but that edifice being destroyed by the fire in 1666, the present structure was erected upon the same spot, at the expense of the Merchant Taylors' company.

The school is a long and spacious building, supported on the east by stone pillars, forming an handsome cloister, within which are apartments for the three ushers. Adjoining to this is a library, supported also by stone pillars, and well furnished with classic and other books, for the use of the school; and on the south of the library is the chapel. Contiguous to these is a large house appropriated to the use of the head master.

The school consists of eight forms, in which near three hundred boys have their education; an hundred of whom, according to the constitutions of the foundation, are taught gratis; an hundred more at five shillings, and fifty at two shillings and six pence per quarter.

The head master receives from the company a salary of ten pounds six shillings per annum, and thirty shillings for water; besides the quarterage from the scholars, which renders his salary very considerable. The first usher has thirty pounds per annum, and the two others twenty-five pounds, and all of them have proper apartments.

Several of the scholars are annually sent to St. John's College, Oxford, which was founded by Sir Thomas White, chiefly for their use; since they have forty-six fellowships in it.

For the better inquiry into the proficiency of the scholars, there are four probations in the year, performed only by the master and ushers; the first on the 11th of March, the second on the 15th of June, the third on the 11th of September, and the fourth on the 11th of December, not being Sundays, and then upon the next day following.

For the farther satisfaction of the master, wardens, and court of assistants, of the Merchant Taylors, the probations themselves undergo an examination twice every year, by two judicious men, well learned in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, appointed by the master and wardens of the company. Upon these days, which are between the 11th and 21st of March and September, the master and wardens, or at least two of them, are present. The examination, which is performed in the chapel, begins at six in the morning, and ends at eleven. These are called the Doctors' days. After the examination is finished, the audience, which are generally numerous, return into the school, where public exercises are performed by the eight senior scholars, or monitors of the school.

There is also another public examination of the scholars of the upper form, by the president and fellows of St. John's College, Oxford, annually, performed upon the 11th of June, previous to the election

tion of scholars to be made upon that day, to fill up the vacant fellowships in that college. And after the public exercises are finished, the dean of the college addresses himself to the scholars, out of whose number the vacancy is to be filled up, in a Latin speech suited to the occasion. At this time an account is usually printed, containing the names and order of the head scholars, their birth, admission, and continuance in the head form; and also an account of the subjects of the orations.

CHAP. XVI.

Of Vintry Ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.--Principal Streets.—Queen-street.—Vintners' Hall.—St. James, Garlick-hill.—-St. Michael Royal.—-Whittington's College.-—Tower Royal.—Queen's Wardrobe.—St. Martin Vintry.—Cutlers' Hall.—St. Thomas Apostles.

THE name of this ward is derived from the Vintry, a part of the bank of the river Thames, where the merchants of Bourdeaux landed their wines, which they were obliged to sell within forty days after landing, until the 28th of Edward I. when they were permitted to store them in cellars and vaults. This spot was at the south end of Three Cranes'-lane, so called from the cranes with which the wine was landed; and at the north-east corner of this lane in Thames-street, opposite to College-hill, anciently stood a spacious and stately edifice, called the Vintry, from the stowing of wine there. In this magnificent fabric, Henry Picard, who had been lord mayor in 1356, entertained the kings of England, Scotland, France, and Cyprus, with a sumptuous banquet, in the year 1363; as noticed in vol. 1. p. 241.

This ward is bounded on the east by Wallbrook and Dowgate wards; on the north by Cordwainers'-ward; on the west by Queenhithe-ward; and on the south by the river Thames. It is divided into nine precincts, and is governed by an alderman, nine common-council-men, nine constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal streets in it are, part of Thames-street, from Little Elbow-lane, in the east, to Townsend lane, in the west, part of Queen-street, Great St. Thomas Apostles, Garlick-hill, and College-hill.

Queen-street is a large street, and well inhabited, but only the lower part of it is in this ward. At the south extremity of this street is the flight of steps, or landing-place, where the lord mayor takes water, when he goes to Westminster to be sworn into his office, before the Barons of the Exchequer.

Between this street and Anchor-lane, stands Vintners'-hall, a handsome building, in Thames-street, on the spot where once stood the house of Sir John Stody, lord mayor, in 1357, who gave it to the company. It was then called the Manor of the Vintry. The present building incloses a square court, with a large handsome iron gate in the front, next the street, hung upon columns wreathed with grapes and leaves, and a Bacchus upon three tons on each pillar.

The hall is adorned with a beautiful screen, on the top of which are placed the public pageants. On one side is a good bust of St. Martin (the tutelary saint of the company), and on the other the Beggar. A fine old painting of St. Martin and the Beggar, brought from Italy, is likewise in the hall, and an old sun-dial, in painted glass, motto, *Dum spectas, fugio.*

In the court-room are five large portraits of Charles II. James II. and his queen; George, Prince of Denmark, and Sir Thomas Rawlinson, lord mayor in 1706; and a good painting of St. Martin and the Beggar. Here is also preserved a most curious piece of old tapestry, in two compartments; in the one is represented St. Martin dividing his cloak with the beggar; and, in the other, the same saint is officiating at the high altar as the Bishop of Tours. The date of this piece is 1466.

Behind the hall is a garden, with a passage to the Thames

At the south-east corner of Garlick-hill stands the parochial church of St. James, Garlick-hill. This church is so called from its dedication to the above saint, and its vicinity to a garlick market, which was anciently held in the neighbourhood, and called Garlick Hythe, from being a wharf on the bank of the river. It is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have been in the abbot and convent of Westminster, till the suppression of their monastery; when coming to the crown, Queen Mary, in the year 1553, granted the same to the Bishop of London and his successors, in whom it still remains. The earliest mention of this church is, that it was rebuilt by Richard de Rothing, sheriff in 1326.

The old church being destroyed by the fire of London, the present edifice was begun ten years after, and thoroughly completed in 1682. It is built of stone, seventy-five feet long, forty-five feet broad, and forty feet high to the roof: the altitude of the steeple is ninety-eight feet. The tower is divided into three stages, in the lowest of which is a very elegant door with coupled columns of the Corinthian order. In the second is a large window, over which is another of a circular form not opened. In the third story is a window larger than the former; and the cornice above this supports a range of open work in the place of battlements, on a balustrade. Above this is the turret, which is composed of four stages, and decorated with columns, scrolls and ornaments. From the body of the church projects a very handsome dial; on the top of which is a statue of St. James, to whom the church is dedicated.

On the east side of College-hill is the parish church of St. Michael, Royal, so denominated from its dedication to St. Michael, and its vicinity to the Tower Royal. It is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have been in the prior and canons of Canterbury as early as the year 1285, when Hugh de Derby was collated hereto.

The church was rebuilt, and, by licence from Henry IV. in the year 1410, made a college of the Holy Spirit and St. Mary, by Sir Richard Whittington, four times mayor, for a master, four fellows, clerks, choristers, &c. contiguous to which was erected an alms-house, denominated God's house, or hospital, for the accommodation of thirteen persons, one of whom to be chief, with the appellation of tutor.

To encourage so laudable an undertaking, the lord mayor and commonalty of London, in the year 1411, granted a spot of ground whereon to erect the intended college and hospital. But Sir Richard dying before the accomplishment of the work, it was soon after finished by his executors; who made laws for the good government thereof, by which, the master of the college (besides the accustomed rights and profits of the church) was to have an annual salary of ten marks; the chaplains eleven marks each; the first clerk eight marks; the second seven and a half; the choristers, each five marks a-year; the tutor of the alms-house sixteen-pence a week; and each of the brethren, fourteen-pence.

The extensive charity and numerous acts of benevolence of this worthy citizen, could not, however, secure an undisturbed repose to his ashes; for, in the reign of Edward VI. the incumbent of the parish, a wicked and rapacious priest, imagining that Whittington's beautiful monument was a repository of something more valuable than his terrestrial remains, caused it to be broken open; but being disappointed of his expected prey, robbed the body of its leaden covering, and re-committed it to the tomb. In the following reign the body was again disintered, and inclosed in lead, and for the third time deposited in its sepulchre, where it remained unmolested till the great fire of London involved its resting place in the common ruin.

While this college remained, the master and wardens of the Mercers' company, who were trustees of it, nominated the rector for the approbation of the monks of Canterbury. It is at present one of the thirteen peculiars belonging to that see.

The old church was destroyed by the fire in 1666, after which the present structure was erected in its stead, and made parochial, for this and the adjoining parish of St. Martin, Vintry, the church of which was not rebuilt. It is a plain, substantial, stone building, enlightened by a single series of large arched windows, placed so high that the doors open under them. The tower is divided into three stages, and is surrounded at top with carved open work, instead of a balustrade: from hence rises a light and elegant turret, adorned with Ionic columns, which ends in a regular diminution, and supports the vane.

The Tower Royal, formerly situate at the north end of the street now so called, was a spacious, strong, and magnificent mansion, pertaining to the kings of this realm, but its origin cannot now be traced, though it is supposed to have been founded by Henry I. However this may be, it was certainly inhabited by King Stephen, who, having called William de Ypres from Flanders, with a number of Flemings, to assist him against the Empress Maud, was so satisfied with his services, that he permitted him to build a house for himself, nearly adjoining, at the west end of the church of St. Thomas the Apostle.

In the early part of the reign of Edward I. this appears to have been the residence of a private individual, of the name of Simon Beawmes; but it is probable that he was only a tenant; for Edward III.

in the forty-third year of his reign, gave it, by the name of his Inne, called the Royal, in his City of London, unto his College of St. Stephen, at Westminster.

Notwithstanding this gift, it must have reverted to the crown; for, in Richard II.'s reign, it was called the Queen's Wardrobe; as Stow thus relates from Frosard:

"King Richard, having, in Smithfield, overcome and dispersed the rebels, he, his lords, and all his company, entered the city of London with great joy, and went to the lady princess, his mother, who was then lodged in the Tower Royal, called the Queen's Wardrobe, where she had remained three days and two nights, right sore abashed. But when she saw the king her son, she was greatly rejoiced, and said, 'Ah, son! what great sorrow have I suffered for you this day!' The king answered and said, 'Certainly, Madam, I know it well, but now rejoice and thank God; for I have this day recovered mine heritage, and the realm of England, which I had near hand lost."

Hence it is probable, that this was a place of considerable strength at that time; for, when the rebels had got possession of the Tower of London, the queen-mother being obliged to fly, came hither for security: and it may be supposed that the king also lodged here; for, in 1386, when Leon III. King of Armenia, who had been expelled his kingdom by the Turks, fled to England for refuge: this was the residence of Richard.

The parish church of St. Martin, Vintry, annexed to that of St. Michael Royal, stood at the south-east corner of Queen-street, in Thames-street, the site of which is now used as a cemetery for the inhabitants of this parish.

It appears to have been of Saxon original, and its patronage must have been anciently in lay hands, from Ralph Peverell having given it, in the reign of William the Conqueror, to the abbot and canons of St. Peter's, in the city of Gloucester, who retained it till the suppression of the convent, when it came to the crown, and was granted by Edward VI. to the Bishop of Worcester and his successors; in whom it still continues, and who present in turn with the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.

A little to the north-east of this church-yard is Cloak-lane, on the south side of which stands Cutlers'-hall, a small but very neat brick building, conveniently fitted up for transacting the business of the company.

The church of St. Thomas Apostles stood on the north side of Great St. Thomas Apostles, before the fire of London; but not being rebuilt, the parish is united to that of St. Mary Aldermary.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have been always in the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, but subject to the archdeacon; and its antiquity may be inferred from the house of William de Ypres, mentioned above, being built at its west end.

CHAP. XVII.

Of Cordwainer-street Ward.—Bounds.—Principal Streets.—Precincts.—St. Mary-le-Bow.—Remains of a Roman Causeway.—Crownsild.—Boyle's Lectures.—St. Mary, Aldermary.—-St. Anthony, or Antholin's.—-St. John Baptist, Wallbrook.

THIS ward took its name from the street now called Bow-lane, which had anciently the name of Cordwainers'-street, from cordwainers, or shoemakers, curriers, and other workers in leather, residing in it. The name was afterwards changed to Hosier-lane, when the shoemakers were replaced by hosiers; and these, in their turn, being superseded by other traders, the present name was taken from the church at its north end.

It is bounded on the east by Wallbrook-ward, on the north by Cheap-ward, on the west by Bread-street-ward, and on the south by Vintry-ward. It extends from the course of Wallbrook in the east, along Watling-street, as far as Red-lion-court, in the west; within which extent it includes these principal streets, or parts of them, viz. Watling-street, Bow-lane, Queen-street, Pancras-lane, Size-lane, Budge-row, and Little St Thomas Apostles.

It is divided into eight precincts, and governed by an alderman, eight common-council-men, eight constables, fourteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

The principal buildings in this ward are three parish churches, viz. St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Mary Aldermary, and St. Anthony, or Antholin's; the first of which is the most distinguished, and stands in Cheapside, near the north-west corner of Bow-lane.

This church took its name from being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and received the additional epithet of Le Bow, from being the first church in London built upon stone arches, at that time called Bows. It was founded in or before the reign of William the Conqueror, and was at first called New Mary church, but afterwards obtained the name of De Arcubus, or Le Bow, in Westcheap.

In the history of the ancient edifice, we find, that in the year 1271, a great number of people were destroyed, and many more maimed, by the falling of the steeple; after which it remained without one for many years, but was gradually repaired, by the donations and legacies of charitable persons; so that, in 1469, the common-council ordained that Bow-bell should be rung at nine of the clock every night; and in the year 1512, it was finished upon the old plan, with stone brought from Caen, in Normandy; that is to say, with arches and five lanterns, one at each corner, and one at the top, upon the arches, which were intended to have been glazed, and to have lights placed in them every night, in the winter, to give light to passengers in the street: and thus it continued till it was destroyed, with the other buildings in the city, by the fire in 1666.

The present noble structure was built by the great Sir Christopher Wren, and is chiefly admired for the elegance of its steeple, which is built entirely of Portland-stone, and was finished in 1680. It is extremely light in its appearance, and, though very high, and full of openings, secure from any second fall, by the geometrical proportion and lightness of its several parts. The length of this church is sixty-five feet, its breadth sixty-three feet, the height of the roof, thirty-eight feet, and that of the steeple, two hundred and twenty-five feet.

The tower is square from the ground, and in this form rises to a considerable height, but with more ornament as it advances. The principal decoration of the lower part is the entrance, which is a noble, lofty, and well-proportioned arch, on two of the sides faced with a bold rustic, and raised on a plain solid course from the foundation. Within the arch is a portal of the Doric order, the frieze ornamented in tryglyphs, and with sculpture in the metopes: over this arch is an opening, with a small balcony, which answers to a window on the other face. The first stage is terminated by an elegant cornice, over which rises a plain course, whence a dial projects. Above this, in each face, is a large arched window, with coupled Ionic pilasters at the sides near the corners. The cornice over the windows supports an elegant balustrade, with attic pillars over the Ionic columns, supporting turrets, each composed of four handsome scrolls, which join at the top, where are placed urns with flames. From this part the steeple rises circular. There is a plain course to the height of half the scrolls, and upon this are raised a circular range of Corinthian columns, while the body of the steeple is continued round and plain within them. These support a second balustrade, with very large scrolls, extending from it to the body of the steeple. Above these are placed a series of composite columns, and from the entablature rises another set of scrolls, supporting the spire, which rests upon four balls, and is terminated by a globe, whence rises a vane, in the form of a dragon. In this steeple are twelve bells, said to be superior in harmony to any set in England.

The author of the Critical Review of the Public Buildings, says, "The steeple of Bow-church is a master-piece in a peculiar style of building: it is, beyond question, as perfect as human imagination can contrive or execute; and, till we see it outdone, we shall hardly think it to be equalled."

In digging the foundation for this church, Sir Christopher Wren discovered that part of the ancient Roman colony, which ran from the Thames northward. On opening the ground, a foundation appeared, firm enough for the intended fabric, which, on inspection, was found to consist of the remains of a temple, or church of Roman workmanship, entirely buried under the level of the present street. On this he determined to erect the new building; and, as the old church stood about forty feet backward from the high street, by purchasing the ground of one private house, in front, not then rebuilt, he was enabled to bring the steeple forward, so as to range with the houses in Cheapside. Here, to his great surprise, he sunk about eighteen feet through made ground, and then imagined that he was come to the natural soil and hard gravel; but, on farther inspection, it appeared to be a Roman causeway, of rough stone, close and well rammed with Roman brick and rubbish at the bottom, all firmly cemented. On this causeway, which was four feet thick, Sir Christopher determined to lay the foundation of the tower and steeple, as being most proper to bear a weighty and lofty structure.

North of this church, between the church-yard and the end of Bow-lane, stood the building, called the Crown-sild, or shed, in which the royal family and their attendants took their stations, to see the justings, processions, &c. After the fall of the wooden stage, in 1329 (vol. I. p. 214), Edward III. caused a spacious stone building to be erected here; which continued to be used for this purpose until the times of Henry IV. who, in the twelfth year of his reign, sold it to Stephen Spilman, and others. And in Bow church-yard church-yard stood one of the public grammar schools founded by Henry VI. This venerable piece of antiquity remained until the year 1737; though the purposes for which it was erected had been long discontinued. This church, which is the chief of the thirteen peculiars in this city belonging to the see of Canterbury, is a rectory, the patronage of which appears to have been always in the archbishop. After the fire, the parishes of Allhallows, Honey-lane, and St. Pancras, were annexed to it; both of which are in Cheap-ward.

The celebrated metaphysical lectures, instituted by the Honourable Robert Boyle, have been generally preached at this church. This gentleman vested a sum of fifty pounds per annum in trustees, to be applied for preaching eight sermons yearly, viz. on the first Mondays of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November, by such minister and at such church, as the trustees should think proper: but no preacher to be continued longer than three years. The object of these sermons is to prove and establish the Christian religion against Pagans, Jews, Mahometans, Atheists, and Deists; but not to interfere in controversies among Christians.

Near the middle of Bow-lane on the east side, is the parochial church of St. Mary Aldermary.

This church, which is a rectory, owes its name to its dedication to the Virgin Mary; and the additional epithet of Aldermary, to Older, or Elder Mary, from its being the oldest church in this city dedicated to the said virgin. It is one of the peculiars belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and was founded before the conquest, under the Saxon kings.

In the year 1510 Sir Henry Keble, Lord Mayor of London, bequeathed one thousand pounds towards

wards rebuilding this church. And, in 1626, William Rodoway gave, towards the building of the steeple then greatly decayed, the sum of three thousand pounds; and Richard Pierson, about the same year, gave two hundred marks towards the same works, with condition that this steeple, thus to be built, should follow its ancient pattern, and go forward, and be finished, according to the foundation of it laid before by Sir Henry Keble, which, within three years after, was so finished, that, notwithstanding the body of the church was burnt in the fire of 1666, the steeple remained firm and good. That part of it which was consumed was afterwards rebuilt in its present form by the munificence of Henry Rogers, Esq. as appears by a Latin inscription over the west door of the church.

This Gothic edifice is very spacious, it being an hundred feet in length and sixty-three in breadth; the height of the roof is forty-five feet, and that of the steeple an hundred and thirty-five. The body is enlightened by a single series of large Gothic windows. The wall has well contrived buttresses and battlements; these buttresses run up pilaster fashion, in two stages, not projecting in the old manner from the body of the building. The tower, which is full of ornament, consists of five stages, each of which, except the lowest, has one Gothic window; and the pinnacles, which are properly so many turrets, are continued at each corner down to the ground, divided into stages as the body of the tower, and cabled with small pillars bound round it, with a kind of arched work, and subdivisions between.

After the fire of London the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle was annexed to this church; which being in the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, the

Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of St. Paul's present alternately to the united livings.

At the south-west corner of Sise-lane, on the north side, and near the west end of Watling-street, stands the parish church of St. Anthony, commonly called St. Antholin, or St. Antlin.

This church is so called from its dedication to St. Anthony, an Egyptian hermit, and founder of the order of Eremites of St. Anthony. The time of its foundation is not certainly known; but that it is of great antiquity appears from its being in the gift of the canons of St. Paul in the year 1181. It was rebuilt by Thomas Knolles, Lord Mayor of London, in the year 1399: and again, in 1513, by John Tate, mercer. In 1616 it was repaired and beautified at the expense of one thousand pounds, raised by the contribution of several munificent inhabitants; but being destroyed by the fire of London, it was rebuilt in the year 1682, in the same manner it now appears.

It is built of stone, of the Tuscan order; and is sixty-six feet in length, fifty-four in breadth, forty-four in height, and the altitude of the steeple is one hundred and fifty-four feet. The roof is a cupola of an elliptic form, enlightened by four port-hole windows, and supported by columns of the Composite order. The steeple consists of a tower, and a very neat octangular spire ornamented with apertures in three stages. The windows at the base of the spire have regular cases, and are crowned with pediments supporting urns. Those of the middle stage have shields, with more free ornaments, which also support their vases; and the crown of the spire with the decorations under the vane, are exceeding handsome.

To this parish is annexed that of St. John Baptist, whose church, before the fire of London, stood close by Wallbrook. The antiquity of this church appears from the mention of it by Ralph de Diceto, Dean of St. Paul's, in the year 1181, whose canons were the patrons, and gave it to the convent of St. Helen, London, in whom it continued till the suppression of their nunnery, when it came to the crown, in which it still remains: so that the presentation to these united parishes is alternately in the crown and the dean and chapter of St. Paul's

CHAP. XVIII.

Of Cheap-ward.—Bounds.—Extent.—Principal Streets.—Precincts.--The Poultry.--Scalding-alley.--St. Mildred's, Poultry.—St. Mary, Colechurch.--Poultry Compter.—Grocers' Hall.—Old Jewry.—Mercers' Hall.—St. Martin, Ironmonger-lane.—Guildhall.—Guildhall Chapel.—St. Lawrence, Jewry.—Honey-lane Market.—Allhallows, Honey-lane.—St. Pancras, Soper-lane. St. Bennet Sherehog.—Bucklersbury.—Barge-yard.—Great Conduit, in Cheapside.

THIS ward is situated in the centre of the city, and took its name from the Saxon word *Chepe*, which signifies a market. That held in Cheapside was called West Cheap, to distinguish it from the one held between Candlewick-street and Tower-street, which was called East Cheap.

It is bounded on the east by Broad-street and Wallbrook wards; on the north by Bassishaw and Coleman-street wards; on the west by Queenhithe and Cripplegate wards; and on the south by Cordwainer-street ward.

It extends from the entrance of Mildred's-court in the north-east, to near the east corner of Milk-street, in the north-west; and from the west corner of the Mansion-house on the south-east, to within thirty-three feet of Bow-lane in the south-west: within which extent are included the Poultry, the east end of Cheapside, Bucklersbury, part of Pancras-lane, Queen-street, and Bow-lane, on the south side; Grocers'-alley, part of the Old Jewry, Ironmonger-lane, King-street, Lawrence-lane, Honey-lane market, and the principal part of Cateaton-street on the north side.

This ward is divided into nine precincts, and is under the government of an alderman, twelve common-council-men, eleven constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle.

When Stocks-market was the principal one in the city, the east end of Cheapside was inhabited by poulterers, from whence it received the appellation of the Poultry, which it still retains.

Almost opposite to the market, on the course of the Wallbrook, anciently stood a slaughter-house for the killing of beasts and scalding of swine: whence it was called the Scalding-house; but this, with all the other slaughter-houses in the city, being put down by act of parliament, the site of it was occupied by a range of buildings, which retained the name of Scalding-Alley for many years. It is now called St. Mildred's-court, on the west side of which is situated the parish church of St. Mildred, Poultry.

This church is a rectory, and derives its name from its dedication to St. Mildred, a Saxon princess, and its situation. It appears to be of ancient foundation, for John de Asswel was collated to it in the year 1325; and in the eighteenth of Edward III. we find it with the Chapel of Corpus Christi and St. Mary de Coneyhope annexed, which chapel stood at the end of Coneyhope-lane, or the Rabbit-market, now called Grocers'-alley: but being suppressed by King Henry VIII. on account of a fraternity founded therein, it was purchased by one Thomas Hobson, a haberdasher, who turned the chapel into a warehouse.

The old church, which had been rebuilt in 1450, was burnt down in 1666, after which the present structure was erected, and the parish of St. Mary Colechurch united to it.

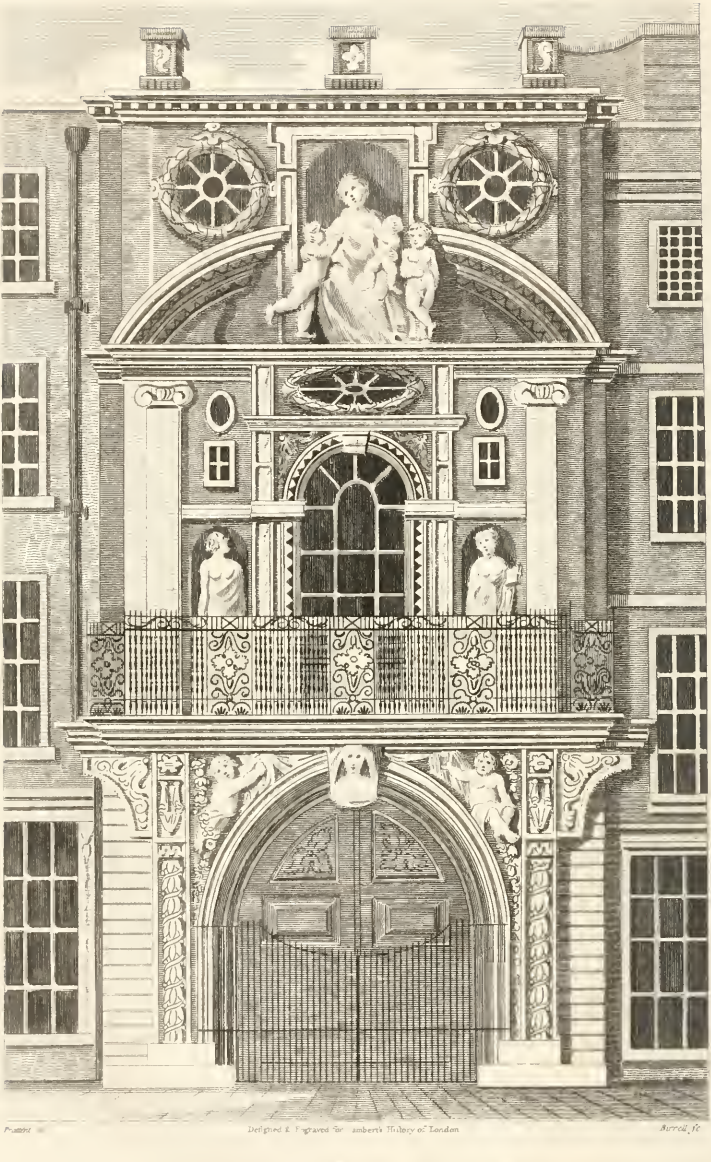
It is a plain substantial stone building, enlightened by a series of large windows, and strengthened with rustic at the corners. The tower is crowned with a plain course, without pinnacles, turret, or any other ornament, except a clock, whose dial projects about half-way over the street. The length of this church is fifty-six feet, its breadth forty-two feet, the height of the roof thirty-six feet, and that of the tower seventy-five feet. Within, it is paved with Purbeck stone, the chancel with the same, mixed with black marble. There is a handsome gallery at the west end, and a good pulpit.

The patronage of this church was in the convent and prior of St. Mary Overy's, in Southwark, till the suppression of that religious house, when it came to the crown; since which time, the lord chancellor presents to the living.

St. Mary, Colechurch, stood at the south-west corner of the Old Jewry. It derived its name from the Virgin Mary, to whom it was dedicated, and the additional epithet from one Cole, the builder of it. The date of its foundation does not appear, but it must have been very ancient; for Thomas Becket, who was constituted Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1162, was baptized here. It is a curacy, in the gift of the company of Mercers.

At a small distance to the west of St. Mildred's church, is the Poultry Compter. This, and the compter in Giltspur-street, are supposed to derive their name from the people confined in them being obliged to account for the cause of their commitment before they are discharged. The charge of these prisons is committed to the sheriffs, under whom there are a great number of officers, belonging alike to each prison, who give security to the sheriffs for the true and faithful execution of their several offices.

The poorer sort of prisoners, in these compters, receive some assistance from the sheriffs, who generally go round the respective markets of the city twice



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Mercers' Hall, Poultry.

Published by T. Hughes Stationers Court Octr 1805 a year, to gather contributions for their support: and there are several benefactions, made by charitable persons, for the relief of those who may happen to be detained, for want of being able to discharge the prison fees.

At the north end of Grocers'-alley, a little to the west of the Poultry Compter, is Grocers'-hall. This building is situated on a spot of ground, purchased by the Grocers' company, in the year 1411, of Robert Fitz-Walter, for three hundred and twenty marks. It is well designed and executed, for the purposes of a common-hall, stately, ornamental, and so capacious, that, for many years, it served for the uses of the Bank of England, which was kept in this hall till there was an office built on purpose, in Threadneedle-street. This hall contains a portrait and statue of Sir John Cutler, who is said to have built the parlour and dining-room over it. The ancient stone and brick building, at the north-west corner of the garden, inhabited by the beadle of the company, is very probably part of the ancient city mansion, of the noble family of Fitz-Walter, and, consequently, the oldest building within the city walls.

From Grocers'-alley there is a passage, called Dove-court, which leads into the Old Jewry. This street was originally called the Jewry, from being the residence of the Jews in this city, prior to their banishment by Edward I. and when, on their readmission into England, they settled near Aldgate, in a place called from them and their then poverty, Poor Jewry-lane, this, their ancient place of abode, received the appellation of the Old Jewry.

Between this street and Ironmonger-lane, is Mercers'-hall and chapel.

This building is situated on the spot that was once occupied by an hospital dedicated to St. Thomas of Acors, or Acons, and was founded for a master and brethren of the Augustine order, by Thomas Fitz-Theobald de Heili, and his wife Agnes, sister to Thomas-a-Becket, who was born in the reign of King Henry II.

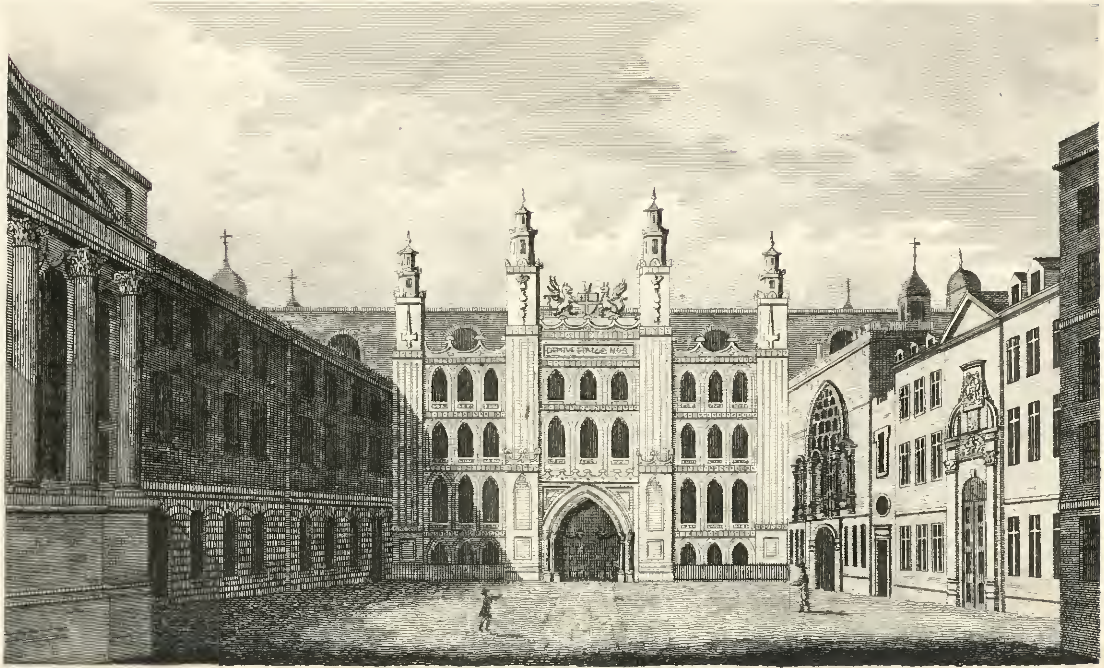
On the dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII. this hospital was purchased by the Mercers' company, who had the gift of the mastership, and was opened by them, immediately, under the name of Mercers'-chapel. They were both destroyed by the fire of London, soon after which the present structure was erected.

The front of this building, next Cheapside, is exceeding handsome; the door-case is enriched with the figures of two Cupids, mantling the company's arms, with festoons, &c. Over the door is a balcony, adorned with two pilasters of the Ionic order, and a pediment, with the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and other enrichments. The inner-court is adorned with piazzas, formed of columns of the Doric order. The hall-room and great parlour are wainscoted with oak, and ornamented with Ionic pilasters; and the ceiling is beautifully decorated with fretwork. The chapel is neatly wainscoted, and paved with black and white marble.

The entrance into this hall, from Ironmonger-lane, is decorated with rustic stone pillars, supporting an arch, on the key-stone of which are the company's arms. The door is pannelled, and the upper compartment, on each side, is also filled with the arms carved in wood.

Farther north, on the same side of Ironmonger-lane, formerly stood the parish church of St. Martin, Ironmonger-lane, which received its name from being dedicated to one Martin, a Hungarian, who, for his implacable hatred and persecution of the Arians, was deemed worthy of being canonized.

It


DOMINE DIRIGE NOS

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Guildhall.

It was anciently called St. Martin, Pomary, from its vicinity to an orchard, which being afterwards converted into a street, or lane, principally inhabited by ironmongers, occasioned the alteration in its distinctive appellation.

It is a rectory, the patronage of which was in lay hands, until Ralph Tricket, in the reign of Henry III. granted it to the prior and canons of St. Bartholomew, in Smithfield, which was confirmed by Henry, in 1233; from which time it continued in that convent, till its dissolution by Henry VIII. when it fell to the crown; in which it still remains.

The church being destroyed by the fire of London, it was not rebuilt; but the parish was annexed to that of St. Olave, Jewry.

West from Ironmonger-lane is King-street, at the northern extremity of which is Guildhall-yard, a spacious paved court, the north side of which is wholly filled by the principal front of Guildhall.

This is the hall in which all the affairs belonging to the corporation of London are transacted. From its extensive size, it is well adapted for assembling the livery, for the election of members of parliament, the lord mayor, sheriffs, and other city officers; and in this hall the corporation give public entertainments to our kings and other great personages.

The original Guildhall stood in the street called Aldermansbury, from their meeting there, and is supposed to have been built by Edward the Confessor; it being known by that name in the year 1189. Stow remembered its ruins, and says, that, in his days, it was used as a carpenter's yard.

The present building was begun in the year 1411, and completed in about ten years; towards defraying the expense of which, contributions were made by most of the city companies, and several sums were received from private benefactors.

This old hall was greatly damaged by the fire of London, but was soon after repaired and beautified, at the expense of two thousand five hundred pounds; from which reparation it has stood to the present time.

The entrance into this building is by a large gate, under a Gothic arch. Over this rises the new front, erected in the year 1789; which consists of four fluted pilasters, between which are Gothic windows. In the space above the great door, there are two series of windows, above which is the city motto, "Domine dirige nos;" and the top of the building is crowned with the city arms. In the side compartments are four ranges of windows, and the top is terminated by reversed arches. The pilasters are higher than the other parts of the front, and are crowned with turrets, in two stages; the two centre ones are decorated with the mace, and the other two with the city sword.

The hall is one hundred and fifty-three feet long, forty-eight feet broad, and fifty-five feet high. The roof is flat, and divided into pannels; and the sides are adorned with demi-pillars.

On the north side of the hall, nearly opposite to the entrance, is a flight of steps, leading to the respective offices; above which is a balcony, supported by twelve iron pillars, in the form of palm-trees. On each side the steps is a small inclosure, used, occasionally, as offices for clerks to write in. Beneath each of these is a prison, called Little Ease, from the ceiling being so low, that a confined person cannot stand upright: this is a place of punishment for disobedient apprentices, who may be committed there at the discretion of the chamberlain.

In the front of the balcony is a clock, on the frame of which are carved the four cardinal virtues, with the figure of Time on the top, and a cock on each side of him. But the most singular ornaments of this balcony are two gigantic images, which stand one on each side the balcony. These enormous figures are in the Roman warlike dress, and have laurel crowns on their heads. The one on the right leans on a small shield, on which is emblazoned a black eagle, on a field, Or; and bears a long weapon, the lang-bard of the Germans, used in guarding the halls of the great, in ancient times. The weapon, and the arms on the shield, denote this to be intended to represent a Saxon. The other, which represents an ancient Briton, has a sword by his side, and a bow and quiver on his back. In his right hand he holds a long pole, with a ball stuck full of spikes, suspended from its top; a weapon which had been in use among our ancestors.

The origin and signification of these colossal figures, has given rise to many ingenious conjectures, the most reasonable of which appears to be that which considers them as types of municipal power: such statues being found in the places of judgment, in many parts of Germany, where they are called *Weichbilds*, and are set up as symbolic of the privileges of the town, and protectors of its freedom and laws; *weich* signifying a town, and *bild* a secure or privileged place.

The Roman costume in which they are habited is not so easily accounted for: perhaps it was adopted by the sculptor, to show that London was a city, adorned and enlarged by the Romans, and a Roman colony.

Round the hall are fourteen demi-pillars, of the clustered Gothic kind, on the capitals of which are the royal arms, the arms of London, and those of the twelve principal city companies.

In the intercolumniations, and at the west end of the hall, are portraits of the judges, who so particularly distinguished themselves in determining the differences between landlords and tenants after the fire of London, without the expense of law-suits. To these was afterwards added that of Lord Camden, who, when chief justice of the court of common-pleas, obtained this mark of esteem from the city by his decision against the legality of general warrants.

At the east end of the hall is the court of hustings, above which are the city's arms, and portraits of their present majesties, Kings George II. and I. and William III. and Queens Caroline, Anne, and Mary; in the order here described, beginning at the center.

Close to the hustings, on the north side of the hall, is the monument erected to the memory of the late Earl of Chatham; which consists of a grand group of complete statues in alto relievo, designed to convey the idea of the national prosperity under the auspices of this celebrated statesman. To this end, Lord Chatham is represented as the pilot of the state, resting on a rudder, with his right arm supporting commerce, who sits by his side, attended by the four quarters of the globe, in the act of pouring the contents of a capacious cornucopia into the lap of Britannia, who is seated upon her lion. Before Lord Chatham stands a female figure, representing the city of London, crowned with turrets; her right hand resting upon a shield with the city arms thereon, and her left arm extended towards commerce: her whole attitude seeming to bespeak that protection which the position of his arm shows him already inclined to afford her. Various emblems are introduced with great propriety in different parts of the work; such as a mariner's compass and a top-mast, in the hands of commerce, and at her feet, a sail furled to the yard and an anchor. Below London is a bee-hive, symbolical of industry, and behind her shield are the insignia of the city.

The following inscription is inserted on a tablet, at the foot of the monument.

"In grateful acknowledgment to the Supreme Disposer of events, who, intending to advance this nation, for such time as to his wisdom seemed good, to an high pitch of prosperity and glory; by unanimity at home—by confidence and reputation abroad—by alliances wisely chosen, and faithfully observed—by colonies united and protected—by decisive victories by sea and land—by conquests made by arms and generosity in every part of the globe—and by commerce, for the fist time united with and made to flourish by war—was pleased to raise up, as the principal instrument in this memorable world—

WILLIAM PITT!

"The mayor, aldermen, and common-council, mindful of the benefits which the city of London received in her ample share in the general prosperity, have erected, to the memory of this eminent statesman and powerful orator this monument in her Guildhall: that her citizens may never meet for the transaction of their affairs, without being reminded, that the means by which providence raises a nation to greatness, are the virtues infused into great men; and that to withhold from those virtues, either of the living or the dead, the tribute of esteem or veneration, is to deny themselves the means of happiness and honour.

"This distinguished person, for the services rendered to King George the Second, and to King George the Third, was created

EARL OF CHATHAM.

"The British Nation honoured his memory with a public funeral, and a public monument, amongst her illustrious sons in Westminster Abbey."

Beneath the tablet is a medallion, containing the cap of liberty, and ornamented with branches of laurel.

At the west end of the hall is the sheriffs' courts, above which is a white marble statue of Alderman Beckford, who died in 1770, during his second mayoralty. He is represented as large as life, dressed in his robes, and standing in the attitude he appeared when he made a reply to the king on his majesty's answer to the city remonstrance, May 23, 1770. On each side of him is a figure sitting in a languishing posture: that on the right hand represents the city of London; and that on the left, Commerce. The head of Commerce is adorned with a crown; her right arm, which holds a cornucopia, almost empty, rests on a mariner's compass, and her left arm supports an anchor. The city of London is distinguished by resting her right arm, which supports her head, on an escutcheon containing the city arms; in her left hand is the city sword inverted; on her head is the cap of maintenance; and by her lies the city mace. Beneath the statue is a large tablet of black polished marble, on which are written the words spoken by Mr. Alderman Beckford to the king; and which were the occasion of this statue being erected. The likeness of Mr. Beckford in this figure is so strong, and the attitude in which he stands so natural on such an occasion, that little more than sound is wanting to realize the representation. The words on the pedestal are as follows:

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"Will your majesty be pleased so far to condescend, as to permit the mayor of your loyal city of London, to declare in your royal presence, on behalf of his fellow-citizens, how much the bare apprehension of your majesty's displeasure would, at all times, affect their minds; the declaration of that displeasure has already filled them with inexpressible anxiety, and with the deepest affliction.

"Permit me, sire, to assure your majesty, that your majesty has not, in all your dominions, any subjects more faithful, more dutiful, or more affectionate to your majesty's person and family, or more ready to sacrifice their lives and fortunes in the maintenance of the true honour and dignity of your crown.

"We do therefore with the greatest humility and submission, most earnestly supplicate your majesty, that you will not dismiss us from your presence without expressing a more favourable opinion of your faithful citizens, and without some comfort, without some prospect at least of redress.

"Permit me, sire, further to observe, that whoever has already dared, or shall hereafter endeavour, by false insinuations and suggestions, to alienate your majesty's affections from your loyal subjects in general, and from the city of London in particular, and to withdraw your confidence to and regard for your people, is an enemy to your majesty's person and family, a violator of the public peace, and a betrayer of our happy constitution, as it was established at the glorious and necessary revolution."

Ascending the steps, on the right hand, are the offices belonging to the chamberlain and the treasury. Fronting the steps is the lord mayor's court, in which the sessions of the peace for the city of London and the sittings of the court of King's-bench are held. This room is adorned with paintings of the four cardinal virtues. On the left hand is the court of Common Pleas, over the entrance into which is a painting of the relief of Gibraltar by Lord Howe. The court of Exchequer sits up stairs. The different apartments in this part of the hall are used occasionally by the commissioners of bankrupts.

At the back of the hall is a very elegant room for the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council, to hold their courts in. In the common-council chamber is a capital collection of paintings, presented to the city of London by the late Alderman Boydell, among which is Mr. Copley's celebrated picture of the siege of Gibraltar.

Adjoining to the north-west part of the hall is that most essential requisite of festivity, the kitchen. This was erected by Sir John Shaw, who, for the first time, gave the mayor's feast here in the year 1500: these had been formerly given at Grocers'-hall.

On the east side of Guildhall-yard, between Guildhall and Blackwell-hall is Guildhall Chapel, which was a college or chapel dedicated to Mary Magdalen and All Saints, and commonly called London College. This college was founded, according to Stow, about the year 1299, by Peter Forneloe, Adam Francis, and Henry Frowike, for a custos and four chaplains.

This college being old and ruinous, Henry VI. upon application to him by the mayor and citizens of London, granted them a licence to rebuild and enlarge it; and the chaplains, &c. belonging to it were increased, by the founding of divers chantries, to a custos, seven chaplains, three clerks, four choristers, and seven alms-people. The mayor and chamberlain were the patrons of this foundation, and the Bishop of London the ordinary; and, in 1542, Bishop Bonner made statutes for its better government.

This college was suppressed by Henry VIII. and, in the year 1551, Edward VI. granted it to the mayor and commonalty of London, for the sum of four hundred and fifty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be held in soccage of the manor of East Greenwich; since which time it has been called Guildhall-chapel.

This edifice, which is perfectly in the Gothic taste, was defaced, but not burnt down, by the fire in 1666, and has been since repaired. In several niches are figures, in stone, of King Edward VI. Queen Elizabeth, and King Charles I. treading on a globe. The windows are spacious; there is a gallery at the west end; the walls are hung with tapestry; there is a wainscot covering over the aldermens' seats, and a particular seat for the lord mayor, adorned with cartouches; a handsome wainscot pulpit and desk, and a neat altar-piece, inclosed with rails and banisters.

Divine service used to be performed here, before the lord mayor and aldermen, weekly, as well as on particular occasions; but this practice has been discontinued for some years; and the Court of Requests is now held here.

Contiguous to this chapel, on the south, was a spacious library, well furnished with books, which was erected by the executors of the munificent Whittington, and William Bury. But nothing escaped the grasp of that rapacious minister, the Protector Somerset, who iniquitously spoiled it of its valuable collection of books.

At the south-west corner of Guildhall-yard, is the parish church of St. Lawrence, Jewry, which runs westward, on the north side of Cateaton-street. It is dedicated to Lawrence, a Spanish saint, born at Huesca, in the kingdom of Arragon; who, after having undergone the most grievous tortures, in the persecution under Valerian, the emperor, was cruelly broiled alive upon a gridiron, with a slow fire, till he died, for his strict adherence to Christianity; and the additional epithet of Jewry, from its situation among the Jews, was conferred upon it, to distinguish it from the church of St. Lawrence, Pounteney, now demolished.

This church, which was anciently a rectory, being given by Hugo de Wickenbroke, to Baliol college, in Oxford, anno 1294, the rectory ceased; wherefore Richard, Bishop of London, converted it into a vicarage; the patronage of which still continues in the master and scholars of that college.

The old church being destroyed by the fire in 1666, it was rebuilt, at the expense of the parishioners, assisted by a very liberal benefaction from Sir John Langham, and the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street, was annexed to it.

The present structure is eighty-one feet long, sixty-eight feet broad, forty feet high, to the roof, and the altitude of the steeple is one hundred and thirty feet. The body is enlightened by two series of windows, the lower ones large and uniform, and the upper small. At the east end is a pediment, with niches, supported by Corinthian columns. The lower, which is lofty, is terminated by a balustrade, with plain pinnacles; and within this balustrade rises a kind of lantern, which supports the base of the spire.

At the western extremity of this ward is Honey-lane-market, which is famous for the choice quality of the provisions brought to it. It is the smallest market in the city, being only one hundred and ninety-three feet from east to west, and ninety-seven feet from north to south. In the centre is a large square market-house, standing on pillars, with rooms over it, and a bell tower in the middle. Here are also a number of standing stalls for butchers, fruiterers, &c. and the passages into the market are inhabited by poulterers, and other dealers in provisions.

This market occupies the sites of two churches, burnt down in 1666; viz. that of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street, which belonged to Cripplegate-ward, and that of Allhallows, Honey-lane, in this ward, which stood where the east end of the market now is. It is a rectory, the advowson of which belongs to the Grocers' company, who, since its union with St. Mary-le-Bow, and St. Pancras, Soper-lane, present in turn with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

St. Pancras, Soper-lane, stood on the north side of Pancras-lane, and took its name from its dedication to St. Pancras, a young Phrygian nobleman, who for his strict adherence to the Christian faith, suffered martyrdom, at Rome, under the Emperor Dioclesian, and from its vicinity to Soper-lane, now Queen-street. It is a rectory, the patronage of which was in the prior and canons of Canterbury, till they granted the advowson to Simon, the archbishop, in the year 1365; since which time, it has remained in the archbishops of that see.

On the same side of Pancras-lane, a little further to the east, stood the parish church of St. Bennet, Sherehog, which is said to derive its name from one Benedict Shorne, a fishmonger, who rebuilt it. It was originally dedicated to St. Osyth, a queen and martyr; but the ambition of this disciple of St. Peter, was superior to his gallantry; he therefore ousted the female saint, and procured the tutelage of the church, by the name of St. Bennet, or Benedict, though his canonization is doubtful. The additional epithet is a corruption of his surname, which was gradually changed to Shrog, Shorehog, and, at length, to Sherehog. After the fire in 1666, this parish was united to that of St. Stephen, Wallbrook. It is a rectory, the patronage of which was in the prior and convent of St. Mary, Overy's, in Southwark, till their dissolution, when it came to the crown; in which it still continues.

Bucklesbury, corruptly called Bucklersbury, received its name from one Buckle, lord of the manor, who resided, and kept his court, in a spacious stone building, called the Old Barge, from such a sign being in front of it. The site of his mansion is now occupied by Barge-yard; to which place, according to tradition, boats and barges came from the Thames, up the Wallbrook, when its navigation was open.

Opposite to Barge-yard, on the north side of Bucklersbury, was a royal mansion, denominated Sernes, or Sewete's Tower. In 1344, King Edward III. constituted this his exchange, or market-place, for bullion; and, in 1358, he granted it, with all its appurtenances, to the dean and canons of the collegiate church of St. Stephen, at Westminster.

At the west end of the Poultry, where Bucklersbury meets Cheapside, formerly stood the great conduit, which was first erected for the reception of water, conveyed hither from Paddington, by leaden pipes under ground.

CHAP. XIX.

Of Coleman-street Ward.—Bounds.—Extent.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—St. Olave, Jewry.—First Synagogue.—The Prince's Wardrobe.—Armourers' Hall.—St. Stephen, Coleman-street.—Lothbury.—St. Margaret, Lothbury.—Founders' Hall.—Lower Moorfields.—Bethlem Hospital.

COLEMAN-STREET, from which this ward takes its denomination, was probably so called from a person of that name, who might be the builder, owner, or principal inhabitant of that part of the city.

This ward is bounded on the south by Cheap-ward, on the east by Bishopsgate, Broad-street, and Cheap-wards, on the north by Bishopsgate and Cripplegate-wards, and Upper Moorfields, and on the west by Bassishaw ward.

It begins, on the east side, upon the course of Wallbrook, in Lothbury, and extends to the end of Ironmonger-lane, on the south side of the street, and to the end of Basinghall-street, on the north side; and, in a north and south direction, it extends from Moorgate to the garden belonging to Grocers'-hall.

It is divided into six precincts, and is governed by an alderman, six common-council-men, six constables, thirteen inquest-men, and a beadle; and the principal streets in it are, Coleman-street, part of the Old Jewry, Lothbury, and Cateaton-street.

On the west side of the Old Jewry stands the parish church of St. Olave, Jewry.

This church is of very ancient foundation, and was originally called St. Olave, Upwell, from its being dedicated to the saint of that name, and, probably, from a well under the east end, where, at this time, and for many years past, has stood a pump for the use of the public; but this name afterwards gave way to that of Jewry, owing to the great number of Jews that took up their residence in this neighbourhood.

This parish was a rectory, in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, till about the year 1181; when it was transferred by them, with the chapel of St. Stephen, Coleman-street, to the prior and convent of Butley, in Suffolk, and became a vicarage. At the suppression of that convent, the impropriation was forfeited to the crown, in whom it has continued to the present time. When the old church was burned down, in 1666, the parish of St. Martin, Ironmonger-lane, was annexed to it; the patronage of which is also in the crown.

The present structure was erected soon after the fire of London, and is built partly of brick, and partly of stone. It is seventy-eight feet long, twenty-four feet broad, thirty-six feet high, to the roof, and eighty-eight feet high, to the top of the tower and pinnacles. The door is of the Doric order, well proportioned, and covered with an arched pediment. The tower is very plain, on the upper part of which rises a cornice, supported by scrolls, and upon this a plain attic course. On the pillars, at the corners, are placed the pinnacles upon balls; and each pinnacle is terminated at the top by a ball. The body of the church is well enlightened, the floor is paved with Purbeck, and the walls are wainscoted. The pulpit is enriched with carvings of cherubims; the floor of the altar, on which the communion-table stands, is paved with black and white marble, and in the front of the altar are the king's arms.

In this church are three curious pieces of painting, viz.

1. Queen Elizabeth, lying on a fine couch, with her regalia, under an arched canopy, on which are placed her arms.

2. King Charles I.

3. The figure of Time, with wings displayed, a scythe in his right hand, and an hour-glass in his left; at his foot is a cupid dormant, and under him a skeleton, eight feet long.

Near to the north-east corner of the Old Jewry stood the first synagogue of the Jews, which was destroyed in the massacre of that nation, when seven hundred Jews were murdered, and their goods spoiled by the citizens of London, in the year 1262. The site thereof was given by Queen Eleanor to the friars called de penitentia Jesus, or de Sacca, an order of begging friars, 56 Henry III. After whose suppression, by a decree of the council of Lyons, King Edward I. in the year 1305, granted leave to the said friars to assign unto Robert Fitz-Walter their chapel and church, of old time called the synagogue of the Jews, which near adjoined with its back front to the mansion place of the said Robert, now Grocers'-hall. The site of that synagogue, &c. after various alterations, is now partly covered with a good private dwelling-house in front, and backward with a handsome capacious meeting-house of the presbyterian denomination; and with two alms-houses in Windmill-court, for nine poor widows of armourers and braziers, founded by Mr. Tindal, and endowed with six shillings per quarter, and nine bushels of coals annually: and with twenty shillings per quarter to those widows who are incapable of doing any business.

On this spot, in ancient times, stood a large stone building, erected on the site of the Jews' houses, which reached from the parish church of St. Olave to the north end of the Old Jewry, and from thence west to the north end of Ironmonger-lane; and from the corner of Ironmonger-lane, almost to the parish church of St. Martin; but of what antiquity, or by whom the same was built, or for what use, is uncertain;

certain; more than that King Henry VI. in the sixteenth of his reign, gave the office of porter or keeper thereof to John Stent, for the term of his life, by the name of his principal palace in the Old Jewry. And King Richard III. committed the keeping of the prince's wardrobe (for so it was afterwards called) to his trusty servant John Kendall, his secretary, by his patent, dated December 12, 1483, and left him to dwell in the same. And in the third year of Edward VI. it was alienated from the crown, being called a great messuage, under the name of the Prince's Wardrobe, to which belonged divers houses, edifices, gardens, &c. being sold to Sir Anthony Cope, a privy councellor to that king, for sixty pounds, and in consideration of his services; the yearly value being reckoned at six pounds twelve shillings and four-pence.

Nearly opposite the north end of the Old Jewry is Coleman-street, which is a broad spacious street, and well inhabited by eminent merchants, and reputable tradesmen and shop-keepers. Near the north-east corner of this street stands Armourers'-hall, which is an old plain brick building.

On the west side of this street, near the south end, stands the parochial church of St. Stephen, Coleman-street; so called from its dedication to St. Stephen, the protomartyr, and its situation.

This church is of great antiquity, and was originally a chapel belonging to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who, between the years 1171, and 1181, granted the church of St. Olave, Jewry, together with this chapel as an appendage to it, to the prior and abbot of Butley, in Suffolk.

This chapel was made parochial in the year 1456, but continued under the patronage of the prior and canons of Butley, till the suppression of that convent, when it came to the crown. However, in the year 1577, Queen Elizabeth granted the patronage, together with the church and rectory, to Thomas Paskins, and others; and, in 1590, to William Daniel, serjeant at law, and other parishioners; which rectory impropriate, and right of advowson, have been held by the parish, in fee-farm of the crown, ever since.

The old church sharing the common fate in the dreadful fire of London, the present structure was erected about four years after. It is a neat and solid building, principally of stone, strengthened with rustic at the corners, and enlightened by one series of large windows, with an handsome cornice, and has a very extensive roof, without a single pillar to support it. The steeple is a square tower, crowned with a lantern, which has four faces, and encloses a bell to call the parishioners to prayers. The front is adorned with a cornice, two pine-apples, and the figure of a cock, handsomely carved. The length of this church is seventy-five feet, its breadth thirty-five feet, the height of the roof, twenty-four feet, and that of the tower, sixty-five feet. On the north side is the church-yard, and on the south is a large pavement, that covers a burial vault, the whole length of the church. To this pavement there is an ascent by several steps, through a gate, over which is cut, in stone, a beautiful representation of the general resurrection.

Speaking of Lothbury, Stow says, "This street is possessed, for the most part, by founders, who cast candlesticks, chaffing-dishes, spice-mortars, and such like copper or latten wares, and do afterwards turn them with the foot, and not with the wheel, to make them smooth and bright, which turning and scratting, as some do term it, making a loathsome noise to the by-passers, that have not been used to the like, it is therefore by them disdainfully called Lothbury.

This street is now well-built, and inhabited by merchants.

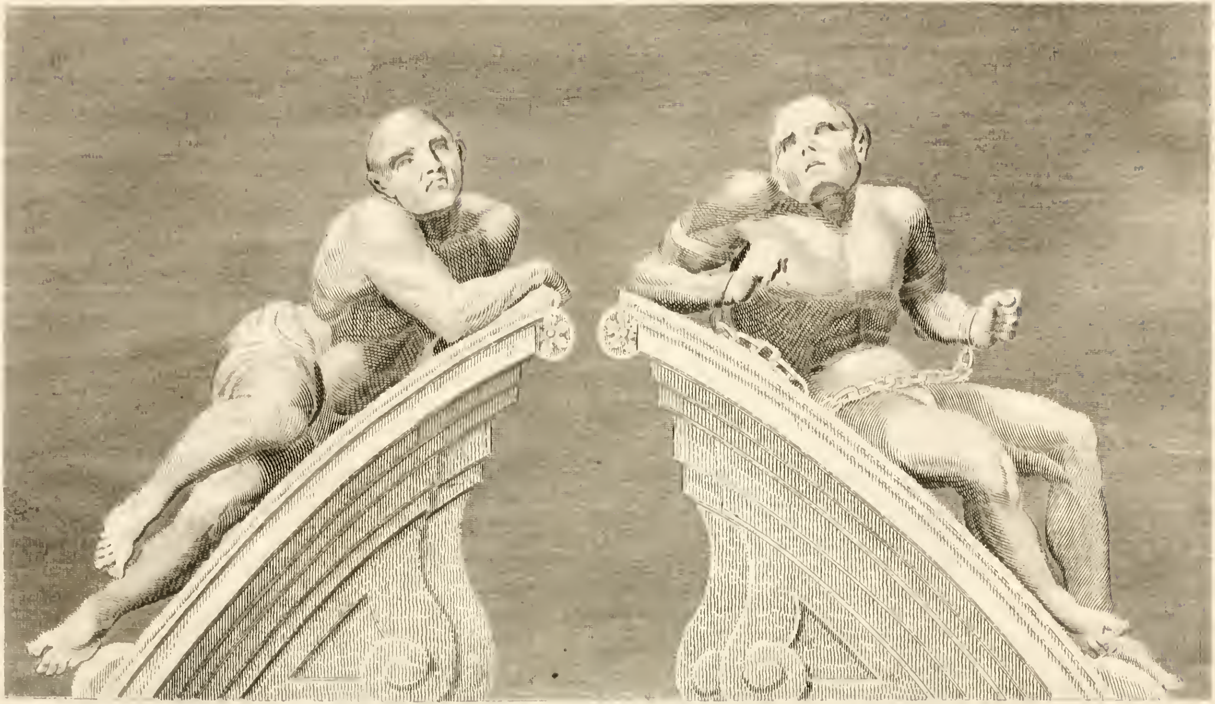
On the south side of it, at the east end, are the new buildings of the Bank, which occupy the whole of that side of the street, from Bartholomew-lane, farther west than the place where Princes-street formerly terminated.

Opposite to the west end of these buildings, is the parochial church of St. Margaret, Lothbury.

This church is so called from being dedicated to St. Margaret, a virgin saint of Antioch, who suffered martyrdom in the reign of the Emperor Decius; and it received the additional epithet of Lothbury, from its situation, and to distinguish it from other churches dedicated to the same saint.

This church is a rectory, the foundation of which is of great antiquity, as appears from John de Haslingfield, who was presented to it, by the abbess and convent of Barking, in Essex, on the 16th of August, in the year 1303. The patronage continued in that convent till the general suppression of religious houses, when it fell to the crown, in whom it has continued to the present time.

The original church being greatly decayed by time, a new one was built in the year 1440; but that being destroyed by the general conflagration, the present edifice was erected in its stead, and completely finished in the year 1690. It is a plain, neat building, and is situated on the ancient watercourse of Wallbrook. It is sixty-six feet long, fifty-four broad, thirty-six in height, to the roof, and one hundred and forty feet to the top of the steeple. The body is well enlightened by a row of lofty windows, over which the wall is terminated by a balustrade, and the principal door is ornamented with Corinthian columns, which support an angular pediment. The tower has large windows in the uppermost stage, and is terminated



Engraved for Lambert's History of London.

Burrell sc.

Figures over the Gateway of Bethlehem Hospital.

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nated a little above by a plain cornice, upon which is raised a small dome, that supports a slender spire. The inside is wainscoted, the floor neatly paved, and the altar-piece handsomely ornamented. The font for baptism is exceeding beautiful, the bason being carved with a representation of the Garden of Eden and the Fall of Man, the Salvation of Noah and his Family, in the Ark; the Baptism of Jesus by John Baptist, and Philip baptizing the Eunuch. The cover is ornamented with the figure of St. Margaret, and also the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

On the north side of Lothbury, between this church and Coleman-street, is Founders'-court; so named from a building at the north end of it, called Founders'-hall.

This hall, which is a plain but convenient building, not only serves the purposes of the company it belongs to, but is also used as a place of worship by a Presbyterian congregation.

The northern extremity of this ward is terminated by that part of Moorfields, called the Lower Quarters, which lie along the front of Bethlem Hospital. This space is divided into four quadrangles, planted with elm-trees, and divided by gravelled walks, which, some years ago, were so much frequented as a promenade by the fashionable part of the citizens, as to obtain the appellation of the City Mall; but at present they are very much neglected. The houses on the north and east sides, are inhabited principally by brokers; and the south side is wholly occupied by Bethlem-hospital.

This hospital (as before observed in the survey of Bishopsgate-ward), was founded for lunatics, near the north-east corner of Lower Moorfields, in Bishopsgate parish; but that becoming ruinous, as well as too small to answer the purposes of the charity, the lord mayor, aldermen, and common-council,

cil, granted the governors the spot of ground whereon the present edifice stands, the foundation of which was laid in the month of April, 1675: but the wings on each side were not erected till some years after the building was completed.

This noble structure is five hundred and forty feet in length, and forty feet in breadth. The middle and ends, which project a little, are adorned with Corinthian pilasters, entablatures, foliage, &c. and, rising above the rest of the building, have each a flat roof, with a handsome balustrade of stone, in the center of which is a handsome turret. That in the middle is adorned with a clock and three dials, on the top of which is a gilt ball and vane. The whole is built of brick and stone, and inclosed by a handsome wall, formed of the same materials, six hundred and eighty feet long. In the centre of this wall, which goes in with a grand semicircular sweep, is a large pair of fine iron gates, supported by stone piers, on the top of which are two statues, in a reclining posture; one representing Raving, and the other Melancholy, Madness. These figures are finely expressed, and were executed by Mr. Cibber, who carved the emblematical figures on the Monument. This wall incloses a range of gardens, neatly adorned with walks of broad stone, grass-plats, and trees. In the east division, which is separated by the entrance into the hospital, those of the lunatics, who are well enough to be suffered to go about, are allowed to walk, and enjoy the benefit of the fresh air.

The expense of erecting this edifice, besides that of building the wings, amounted to near seventeen thousand pounds.

Notwithstanding the magnificence of this structure, it shows more of good intention than of good taste, in the governors of this charity, under whose direction it was built; the style of architecture being very improper for an hospital for lunatics, in which simplicity and regularity were alone to be attended to; or, if pilasters were thought necessary, those of the Tuscan order would have suited the design much better than the Corinthian. Another striking defect is in the centre pavilion, which should have had more appearance of being the principal part of the building.

The inside of this building chiefly consists of two galleries, one over the other, which are one hundred and ninety-three yards long, thirteen feet high, and sixteen feet broad, exclusive of the cells. These galleries are divided in the middle by two iron gates, in order to separate the men from the women; the latter being confined to the western part, and the former to the eastern part of the hospital. At the entrance, between these two gates, on the right hand, is a handsome apartment for the steward, who is the manager, under the direction of the committee. On the left is a spacious room, in which the committee sit to receive and discharge patients. Below stairs is a good kitchen, and all necessary offices for keeping and dressing provisions, washing, &c. and at the south-east corner is a bath, for the use of the patients.

There are about two hundred cells, or rooms for patients in this hospital, each of which is provided with a bed; but, when the state of the patient is such as to require it, this is replaced with fresh clean straw.

This hospital was formerly open for the admission of the public, to the great prejudice of many of the unhappy patients; but, by the present regulations, no person is admitted without a ticket, signed by one of the governors.

CHAP. XX.

Of Bassishaw Ward.—Bounds.—Precincts.—Basinghall-street.—Blackwell Hall.—-St. Michael, Bassishaw.—Masons' Hall.—-Weavers' Hall,—-Girdlers' Hall.—-Coopers' Hall.

This is a very small ward, consisting principally of one large street, called Basinghall-street. It is bounded on the east and south by Coleman-street-ward, on the west by Cripplegate and Cheap-wards, and on the north by Cripplegate-ward. It is divided into two precincts, and is governed by an alderman, four common-council-men, three constables, seventeen inquest-men, and a beadle.

Basinghall-street derives its name from the mansion-house of the family of the Basings, several of whom served the chief offices in the city, in the 13th and 14th century. It was originally called Basing's-haw, or hall; but, descending to Mr. Thomas Bakewell, it changed its name to Bakewell's-hall. It afterwards fell to the crown, and, in the year 1397, was sold by King Richard II. with its gardens and appurtenances, to the mayor and commonalty of London, for fifty pounds; since which time, it has been corruptly called Blackwell-hall, and used as a weekly market for woollen cloths.

The old hall had become so ruinous, that, in 1658, it was pulled down, and rebuilt, at an expense of two thousand five hundred pounds; the principal part of which was defrayed by Richard May, Merchant-taylor. This building being destroyed by the fire in 1666, the present structure was erected in 1672.

It is a square building, with two courts in the middle, surrounded with warehouses, and has two spacious entrances, or gates for carriages; one from Basinghall-street, and the other from Guildhall-yard, where is the principal front, and a door-case, adorned with two columns of the Doric order, with their entablature, and a pediment, in which are the king's arms, and, a little lower, the city arms, enriched with cupids, &c. There is also an entrance to it from Cateaton-street.

Within these buildings are different apartments, or warehouses, called the Devonshire, the Gloucestershire, the Worcestershire, the Kentish, the Medley, the Spanish, and the Blanket-halls; in which each piece of cloth pays one penny for pitching, and a halfpenny per week for resting. The profits are applied towards the support of Christ's Hospital; the governors of which have the sole management of the warehouses.

This market may be said to be the greatest woollen cloth-market in the world; and therefore it has always been the particular care of the city of London to keep it under the best established regulations and orders; for, so early as the 21st of Richard II. it was ordained, that no manner of person should sell any woollen cloths, except they were first brought, harboured, and discharged, at the common market of Blackwell-hall, upon pain of forfeiture thereof. And that ordinance was confirmed by an act of common-council, held on the 1st of August, 8 Henry VIII. with this addition, that no manner of person, being a freeman of this city, suffer any manner of person whatsoever, be he free or foreign, to buy or sell any manner of woollen cloths, harboured or lodged, contrary to the said ordinance, within his shop, chamber, or other place within his house, unless the said cloths were first brought to Blackwell-hall, and there bought and sold, under the penalty of six shillings and eight pence for every broad cloth, three shillings and four pence for every kersey, and twenty pence for every dessein of Bridgewater, and other pieces of cloth: double for a second offence, and disfranchisement for a third.

There is only one church in this ward, which is situated on the west side, and nearly in the centre of Basinghall-street, and is called St. Michael, Bassishaw.

This church received its name from being dedicated to St. Michael, the Archangel, and from its situation. It is a rectory, and was originally founded about the year 1140; at which time it was in the gift of the prior and canons of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield. The register of London gives no name of a rector, before Ralph de Waltham, who died in 1327, when the presentation belonged to Henry Bodyke, citizen of London; but, about a century after, it fell to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who, from that time, have continued patrons thereof.

The old church, which was very beautiful, was entirely destroyed by the fire of London; and the present structure was completed in 1679. The walls of this building, which are of brick, are strengthened with rustic work at the corners, and the body is well enlightened by a single series of large windows. At the east end, where the top is terminated by an arch, the light is given by three windows; one of them upright, and the two others circular. The steeple consists of a stone tower, crowned with a turret, from which rises a kind of spire. The length of this church is seventy feet, the breadth fifty feet, the height of the roof forty-two feet, and that of the tower seventy-five feet.

The other public buildings in this ward, are, four of the companies' halls, viz. on the east side of Basinghall-street, Masons'-hall, a small but very convenient stone building, in Masons'-alley.

Weavers'-hall, which is a handsome building, neatly adorned in the inside with hangings, fretwork, and a skreen of the Ionic order.

Girdlers'-hall; a handsome and convenient building, finished in 1681, well wainscoted within, and with a skreen of the Composite order.

On the west side of Basinghall-street:

Coopers'-hall; a stately well-built edifice, of brick. The hall is a handsome room, wainscoted to the height of fourteen feet, and paved with marble. Of late years this hall has been used for the drawing of the lottery.

CHAP. XXI.

Of Cripplegate Ward.—Bounds.—Division.—Extent.—Precincts.—Principal Streets.—Aldermanbury.—St. Mary, Aldermanbury.—St. Alphage.—Sion College.—Curriers' Hall.—St. Alban, Wood-street.—St. Olave, Silver-street.—St. Michael, Wood-street.—Wax-chandlers' Hall.—Haberdashers' Hall.—Addle-street.—Brewers' Hall.—Plasterers' Hall.—Silver-street.—Monkwell-street.—Barbers' Hall.—Nicholas's Alms-houses.—Lamb's Chapel.—Rogers's Alms-houses.—St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street.

This ward takes its name from the gate which has been already described, in page 368 of this volume. It is bounded on the east by Cheap, Bassishaw, and Coleman-street wards, and Little Moorfields; on the north by the parish of St. Luke, Old-street; on the west by Aldersgate-ward, and on the south by Cheap-ward.

It consists of two parts, viz. Cripplegate within, and Cripplegate without the walls, and extends from Cheapside, on the south,. to beyond Bridgewater-square, in the north; and from Moorfields, in the east, to Jewin-street, in the west.

It is divided into thirteen precincts, viz. nine within the walls, and four without; and is governed by an alderman, twelve common-council-men, thirteen constables, thirty-four inquest-men, and three beadles.

The principal streets and lanes, within the walls, are Milk-street, Aldermanbury, Love-lane, Lad-lane, Wood-street, all but about seventy feet on the west, towards Cheapside, Addle-street, Silver-street, and a small part of Cheapside, reaching about one hundred and seventy feet, eastward, from Wood-street.

In this district are included parts of Cateaton-street, London-wall, Little Wood-street, Hart-street, Monkwell-street, Maiden-lane, and Gutter-lane.

The chief places without the walls are, Fore-street, Moor-lane, part of Grub-street, Whitecross-street, to beyond Beech-lane, Redcross-street, Beech-lane, the principal part of Barbican, all Bridgewater-square, and the east end of Jewin-street.

In this chapter we shall treat of that part within the walls.

Aldermanbury has been already noticed in Cheap-ward, as the place where the first bury, or hall, for the meetings of the aldermen was situated. The earliest notice of this place appears to be in the register of the parish of St. Mary, at Osney, near Oxford; in which an entry is made of certain grounds and rents, in the Aldermanbury of London, given to that parish, in the year 1189, by Richard Renery, one of the sheriffs of London.

On the west side of this street, between Love-lane and Addle-street, stands the parish-church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, which is of ancient foundation; as is evident from a sepulchral inscription, in the old church, bearing the date of 1116. The patronage was formerly in the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who, in the year 1331, with the consent of Stephen, Bishop of London, appropriated it to the adjoining hospital of Elsing Spital; but with a proviso, that the dean and chapter should have the patronage of both, and that, upon the appointment of a custos to this church and hospital, he was to swear fealty to the dean and chapter, and to pay them an ancient pension of a mark a year, due from this church, and six shillings and eight pence yearly, for the hospital, as granted by the founder, William de Elsing, in testimony of its subjection to the church of St. Paul. It was also agreed that the custos should find a priest to serve the cure, who was to be approved by the dean and chapter. Hence it appears, that this church was, at that time a curacy, as it still continues: but, after the dissolution of the hospital, the patronage was granted to the parishioners, who have ever since presented to it.

The old church being destroyed by the dreadful fire in 1666, the present structure was finished ten years after. It is built of stone, and very plain; the body is well enlightened, and the corners are wrought with rustic. It is seventy-two feet long, and forty-five broad; the roof is thirty-eight feet high, and the steeple about ninety feet. It has a plain solid tower, constructed in the same manner as the body, and the angles in the upper stage strengthened with rustic; the cornice is supported by scrolls, and above it is a plain attic course. In this rises a turret, with a square base that supports the dial. This turret is arched, but the corners are massy, and its roof is terminated in a point, on which is placed the vane.

On the south side of this church stood a conduit, erected by Sir William Eastfield, in 1438, for supplying the neighbouring inhabitants with water, from Tyburn; which being destroyed by the fire in 1666, was soon afterwards rebuilt: but, when the plentiful supply of water rendered these buildings useless, this, with those in Cheapside, and without Cripplegate, were pulled down in 1730, and the stones employed in repairing the gate upon London-bridge.

At the north-west corner of Aldermanbury stands the parish church of St. Alphage; so called from its dedication to St. Alphage, or Elphage, a noble Anglo-Saxon saint, Bishop of Winchester, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, who was put to death by the Danes, at Greenwich, on the 17th of April, 1014.

The first church in London, dedicated to this saint, stood adjoining to the city wall, near the east side of Cripplegate. But, it being demolished at the suppression of religious houses, by Henry VIII. and the site thereof turned into a carpenter's yard, the south aisle of the church of St. Mary, Elsing Spital, was converted into the parish church.

The advowson of this church, which is a rectory, was anciently in the Dean and Canons of St. Martin's-le-Grand, in whom it continued till Henry VII. annexed it to St. Peter's, Westminster, when the abbot and convent became the patrons of it; but that convent being dissolved, Queen Mary, in the year 1553, granted the patronage thereof to Edmund, Bishop of London, and his successors, in whom it still remains.

This church escaped the fire of London, but became so ruinous, that it was rebuilt in 1770. It is a very small but neat edifice, built of brick and stone, and well enlightened. It has neither tower, nor any other ornament on the top; but the doors of entrance, one of which is on the south side of London-wall, and two others at the north end of Aldermanbury, are very neatly ornamented; and each front is crowned with a pediment. On the sides of the front, next London-wall, are two handsome stone pillars; and in the centre of the front, in Aldermanbury, is a spacious arched window, with a small port-hole window on each side, and a neat balustrade beneath it. Part of the old church remains at the north-west corner of the present one.

Adjoining to the west end of this church stands Sion College, on the site of Elsing Spital, which was anciently a house of nuns; but this establishment coming to decay, William Elsing, mercer, in the year

1329, began the foundation of an hospital for the support of one hundred blind men, in the same place; towards the erecting of which he gave his two houses in the parishes of St. Alphage, and our Blessed Lady, in Aldermanbury, near Cripplegate.

This house was afterwards a priory, or hospital of St. Mary the Virgin, founded in the year 1332, by William Elsing, for canons regular; of which Elsing himself became the first prior: and was surrendered on the eleventh of May, in the 22nd of Henry VIII.

Sion college owes its foundation to Dr. Thomas White, vicar of St. Dunstan's in the west, who, among other charities, left 3000l. to purchase and build the same, with alms-houses for twenty poor people, ten men and ten women. He also gave one hundred and sixty pounds per annum for ever to the college and alms-houses; one hundred and twenty pounds for the support of the alms-people, and forty pounds per annum for the expenses of the foundation.

The original building was begun in the year 1627, and the work being completed agreeable to the will of the founder, a charter was procured under the great seal of England, in the reign of Charles I. for incorporating the clergy of London; by which all the rectors, vicars, lecturers, and curates, were constituted fellows of this college; and the Bishop of London was appointed visitor. Out of the incumbents were annually to be elected as governors, a president, two deans, and four assistants, who were to meet quarterly to hear a Latin sermon, and afterwards to be entertained at dinner in the college hall, at the expense of the foundation. In 1632 the governors and clergy agreed upon having a common seal, on which was the figure of the Good Samaritan, with this inscription, Vade et fac similiter; and round it, Sigillum Collegii de Sion Londini.

To this college belongs a very spacious library, which was added to it after its first institution, at the sole expense of the Rev. John Simpson, Rector of St. Olave, Hart-street, and one of the executors of Dr. White's will. A great number of books were brought to this library from the old cathedral of St. Paul, in the year 1647, and many others were given by private benefactors. But, in 1666, one third part of the books, the alms-houses, several chambers for students, and the apartments reserved for the governors and fellows to meet in, and for the residence of the librarian and clerk, were destroyed by the great fire. However, the whole edifice was afterwards rebuilt in the plain manner it now appears. The new library has, at different times, been greatly enlarged; particularly by a part of the Jesuits' books seized in the year 1679; by the donation of Lord Berkley, who gave half of his uncle Cook's books to it, by several legacies, to be laid out annually in books; by a great number of private benefactors; and lastly, by the books that it has been some time a custom for every incumbent within the city and suburbs of London, to give, on his taking possession of his living. For the preservation and care of this library, there is a librarian, who has a genteel apartment on the south side of the college.

The alms-houses are built under the library on the west side of the square, ten within the college for the men, and ten without it for the women. Four of these alms-people are nominated by the city of Bristol, where Dr. White was born; eight by the Merchant Taylors' Company; six by the parish of St. Dunstan, where he was minister forty-nine years; and two by St. Gregory's parish, where he had lived about twenty years.

Westward from Sion College, and beyond Philip-lane, is Curriers'-court, at the upper end of which is a neat, convenient hall belonging to the company of Curriers.

A little farther to the west is Wood-street, on the east side of which, at the south-west corner of Love-lane, stands the parochial church of St. Albans, Wood-street.

This church is a rectory, and takes its name from its dedication to St. Alban, the British Protomartyr. Its origin is involved in obscurity, but it is supposed to have been founded by Alfred, when he restored the city, in 886, after it had been ravaged by the Danes: others, however, imagine, from the church being built of the same materials as a square tower remaining at the north corner of Love-lane as late as the year 1632, and which was believed to have been part of King Athelstan's palace, that its foundation is to be attributed to that monarch. Whichever of these opinions be true, the original building remained till 1634, when it was taken down and a new church erected on the same spot; which was destroyed thirty-two years after by the fire of London.

The present church was built upon the same model as the former; and is sixty-six feet in length, fifty-nine feet in breadth, and thirty-three feet in height to the roof. It is a Gothic structure, with a plain body and large windows, and the wall is crowned with a square battlement. It has a handsome tower, ninety-six feet in height, which is divided into four stages, supported by Gothic pilasters, each crowned with its own cornice. In the lower stage, one window occupies the middle of the space, both in front and on the sides, the bars forming a double series of Gothic arches: and the pilasters are carried up straight at the sides, the remainder of the space being left plain. The second stage is enlightened by porthole windows; and the other two stages have long Gothic windows. The summit of the tower is edged with battlement work, plain and close, and its verge is crowned with handsome pinnacles, one at each corner and one in the middle of each face.

The patronage of this church was originally in the abbot and convent of St. Albans, in Hertfordshire, from whom it passed into the hands of the master, brethren, and sisters of the hospital of St. James, at Westminster. How long they possessed it does not appear, but Henry VI. granted it to the provost and fellows of Eaton college, which was founded by him, and it has remained in them ever since.

When this church was re-erected after the fire of London, the parish of St. Olave, Silver-street, the church of which was also burnt, was annexed to it.

The parish of St. Olave, Silver-street, is a rectory, the church whereof stood at the south-west corner of Silver-street. It was a small church, the patronage of which was always in the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, who, since the fire, have presented alternately with the provost and fellows of Eaton college. The site of the church is now a burying place for the parishioners.

Farther south, on the west side of Wood-street, stands the parish church of St. Michael, Wood-street.

This church is of some antiquity, as appears by John de Eppewell, being rector thereof in the year 1328. The old church being destroyed by the fire of London in 1666, the present structure was finished a few years after, and the parish of St. Mary Staining annexed to it. The east end of this building is ornamented with four Ionic columns, raised upon a continued pedestal, with arches between, and supporting a handsome pediment, in the middle of which is a circular window. Between the columns are three upright arched windows that fill the whole space. The rest of the body is plain, and the windows are so high, that the doors open under them. The tower consists of three plain stages, with large windows, from the uppermost of which rises a small square course, the foundation of the base of the turret. The base is cut away from the breadth of the tower, gradually, to the diameter of the turret, which is plain, but handsome; and from its top rises a ball that supports the vane. It is sixty-three feet long, forty-two feet broad, thirty-one feet high, to the roof, and the altitude of the tower is ninety feet.

The patronage of this rectory was anciently in the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, in whom it continued till the suppression of their monastery, when, coming to the crown, it was sold, with the appurtenances, by King Henry VIII. in the year 1544, to William Barwell, who, in the year 1588, conveyed the same to John Marsh, and others, in trust for the parish, in which it still continues.

On the west side of Wood-street is Maiden-lane; on the south side of which is Wax-chandlers'-hall, a handsome modern brick building, well fitted up for the use of the company. Over the centre window, on the north side, is the arms of the company, and, over the two end windows, a bee-hive, carved in stone.

Nearly opposite to this, at the corner of Staining-lane, stands Haberdashers'-hall. This is a very handsome ancient brick building. The room, called the hall, is very spacious and lofty, and is paved with marble and Purbeck-stone. At the west end, where there are two apertures, is a skreen, beautifully ornamented with pilasters of the Corinthian order.

On the east side of Wood-street is Addle-street; the original name of which is supposed to have been Adel, or Noble-street; which appellation it received from its vicinity to Athelstan's palace. Near the east end of this street is Brewers'-hall; a large and commodious building, supported by very neat pillars, and with a handsome entrance into a court, paved with free-stone.

Nearly adjoining to this is a very neat and convenient hall, belonging to the Plasterers' company.

Opposite to Addle-street is Silver-street; so called from having been formerly inhabited by working silversmiths. On the south side of this street is a well-built Independent meeting-house.

On the north side of Silver-street, directly opposite the cemetery of St. Olave's parish, is Monkwell-street, which took its name from being the residence of the monks of St. James's hermitage, and from a well belonging to them. On the west side of this street, near the centre, is Barbers'-hall.

This building was designed by that great architect Inigo Jones, and, though of a simple construction, is exceeding elegant, and considered as one of his master-pieces. The grand entrance from Monkwell-street is enriched with the company's arms, large fruit, and other decorations. The court-room has a fret-work ceiling, and is adorned with several beautiful paintings, particularly a very handsome piece, by Hans Holbein, of King Henry VIII. uniting the barbers and surgeons into one company, which contains portraits of eighteen of the most eminent members of the company at that time. The theatre belonging to the hall, at the time these companies were united, contained some chirurgical curiosities; but since the Barbers and Surgeons have been made separate bodies, the latter have taken those curiosities away, and the theatre has ever since been shut up and deserted.

Nearly opposite to this hall are the alms-houses, founded in the year 1575, by Sir Ambrose Nicholas, Knight, lord mayor and Salter, for twelve widows of members of that company.

At the north-west corner of Monkwell-street, is Lamb's-chapel-court; so called from the chapel which is situated there.

This chapel was founded as early as the time of King Edward I. when it was dedicated to St. James, and distinguished by the name of St. James's-chapel, or, Hermitage on the Wall, from its being situated so near to London-wall. This hermitage belonged to the abbot and convent of Gerondon, in Leicestershire, who kept two Cistertian monks of their own order in this place. At the general dissolution of religious houses, it was granted by Henry VIII. to William Lamb, a gentleman of his chapel, and, afterwards, a cloth-worker of this city; who bequeathed it, with his house and appurtenances, to the value of thirty pounds per annum, to the Cloth-workers' company, for paying a minister to read divine service, in this chapel, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and to relieve a certain number of poor people, at different times throughout the year.

The company of Cloth-workers have four sermons preached to them annually, in this chapel, on four principal festivals in the year, viz. the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, the feast of St. John Baptist, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. On these days, the master, wardens, and livery of the company, go in their formalities to the chapel, and hear a sermon; after which they relieve twelve poor men, and as many women, with one shilling each, in money; and, at Michaelmas, they give to each of them a gown, a shift, and a pair of shoes. Hence this chapel has acquired the appellation of Lamb's-chapel.

Opposite to Lamb's-chapel-court is a small street, called Hart-street, on the north side of which is a a charitable foundation, by Mr. Robert Rogers, leather-seller and merchant-adventurer, for six ancient couple, who have each two rooms, and receive four pounds per annum, from the city of London, in whom the gift of this charity was left by the founder.

The church of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street, stood where the west end of Honey-lane-market now is. It is an ancient rectory, as appears from a letter from King Henry I. to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who have always been the patrons of it, respecting its rights and privileges.

END OF VOL. II

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